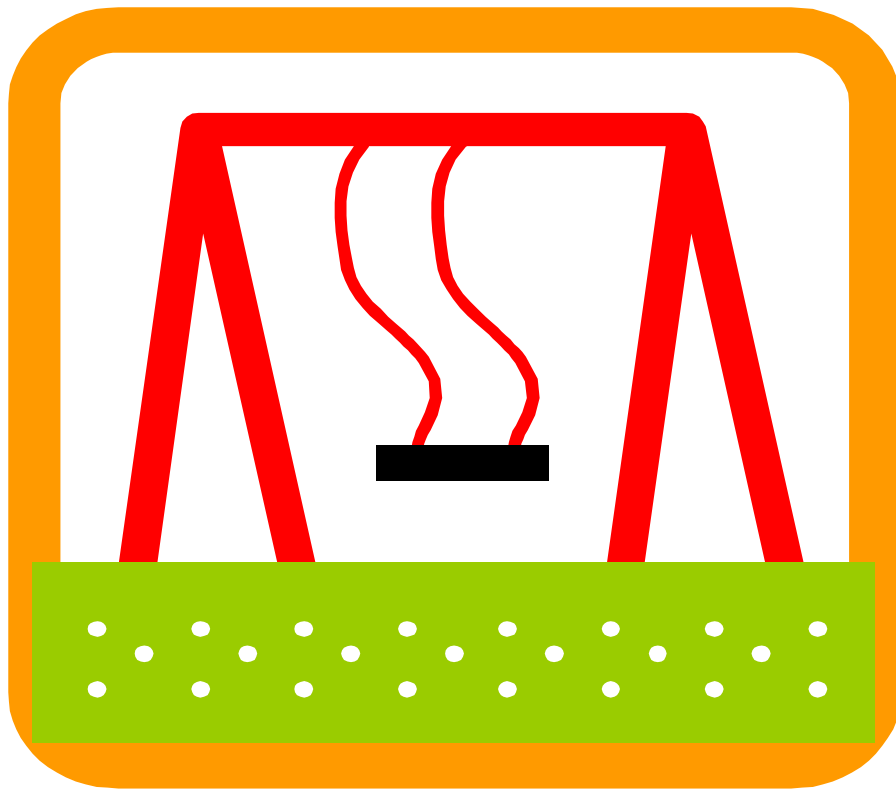


Oneida County Outdoor Recreation Plan



2004-2008

Prepared by the North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission

ONEIDA COUNTY OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN 2004 - 2008

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PREFACE

Introduction

Oneida County has a significant amount of recreational resources allowing residents and visitors to enjoy a wide variety of outdoor activities. Streams, rivers, forests, trails, and campgrounds provide the setting for fishing, boating, camping, biking, hunting, hiking, snowmobiling, cross-country skiing, and other outdoor activities. Portions of the Nicolet National Forest and the American Legion State Forest are found within the County as well as portions of the Three Lakes and Minocqua lake chains. Outdoor enthusiasts throughout the region are drawn to Oneida County's nearly 1,200 lakes and over one thousand miles of recreational trails.

Past Plans

Oneida County first began recreation planning in 1976 when "An Outdoor Recreation Plan for Oneida County and the City of Rhinelander" was prepared by the North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission. This plan was updated in 1981 by "An Outdoor Recreation Plan for Oneida County and the Town of Minocqua and the Town of Three Lakes", which was prepared by Planning Consultant, Craig Johhanesen. Since then, the Towns of Cassian, Hazelhurst, Lake Tomahawk, Minocqua, Monico, Newbold, Nokomis, Sugar Camp, Three Lakes, and Woodruff have all developed their own Town Recreation Plans as well. This plan has been written to follow the previous Oneida County Outdoor Recreation Plan covering the period 1999-2003. In addition, the findings of the 2000-2005 Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) are utilized in the development of this county plan.

Purpose

The primary purpose of this recreation plan is to provide continued direction in meeting the current and future recreation needs of the County. This direction takes the form of an inventory and analysis of outdoor recreational facilities followed by establishing recommendations to meet identified needs. Adoption of this plan by the Oneida County Board, City of Rhinelander, and the Town governments as well as the subsequent acceptance of the plan by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WisDNR) allows for continued eligibility for financial assistance from the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LAWCON), the Stewardship Fund, and many other federal and state funding programs.

Planning Process

This plan addresses the outdoor recreation needs for the entire county, encompassing the City of Rhinelander, and the County's twenty Towns. Background information on Oneida County was compiled to develop an understanding of the environmental and social characteristics of the County and their relationship to outdoor recreation. An inventory of existing recreational facilities is outlined in detail in Part III. Individual municipalities within the County were contacted to provide their local plans for recreational improvements. The existing recreation system is analyzed to determine current and potential future deficiencies through the year 2008. To define recreational needs, a survey instrument was used in combination with the standards promulgated by the 2000-2005 SCORP. The findings of the Oneida County Pedestrian and Bicycle Corridors Plan of 2002 and the Rhinelander Area Pathways Project of 2003 (both by NCWRPC) were also incorporated in the development of this plan. These needs and plans were

then formalized into a series of goals and objectives intended to guide future recreational planning efforts. These goals and objectives are then presented in the form of general development strategy recommendations for the development of recreational facilities throughout the five-year action program. These recommendations are backed with a series of alternative implementation “tools”. The plan concludes with notes on subsequent updates to ensure that it remains relevant to the needs of Oneida County over the entire five-year lifespan.

Statutory Base

The 2004-2008 Oneida County Outdoor Recreation Plan was prepared pursuant to the State’s Outdoor Recreation Program as given in Wisconsin Statute Section 23.30. This section serves to “promote, encourage, coordinate, and implement a comprehensive long-range plan to acquire, maintain, and develop for public use, those areas of the state best adapted to the development of a comprehensive system of state and local outdoor recreation facilities and services . . .”

PART I – Goals and Objectives

The purpose of this recreation plan is twofold. First, the plan is a budgeting tool for the County and its municipalities as the plan identifies and addresses the recreational needs of the inhabitants of the County for the next five years. Secondly, the plan enables the County and its communities to gain eligibility for possible state and federal aid programs administered by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WisDNR). In the past, the cost-sharing feature of the aid programs has been a major factor in the development of facilities within Oneida County. The County has had a successful history in the development of outdoor recreation through the efforts of the County Forestry Department. By continuing to work on behalf of its residents, and in cooperation with the private providers of recreation facilities as well as local communities, state and federal agencies, Oneida County will enhance its tradition of meeting the recreational needs of all users. As with any comprehensive planning effort, it is necessary to set forth certain ideals or goals, which serve as the guiding philosophy for policy makers in the implementation of the plan recommendations.

Goals

1. Guide the County program for acquisition and development of lands for parks, open space, and resource protection.
2. Promote and practice sound resource management to protect lands and waters, giving special consideration to those resources with unique features or those sensitive to overuse or development.
3. Provide open space and recreational facilities to meet the needs of the County, and support state and federal efforts to provide recreational resources within the County.
4. Where feasible, assist local units of government in the development and provision of recreation facilities to meet local needs.
5. Support the identification, preservation, and restoration of areas and sites with scientific, cultural or historic significance.
6. Qualify the County and participating local units of government for eligibility under federal and state financial and technical aid programs relating to outdoor recreation.

By following these guiding principles, Oneida County can provide the necessary outdoor recreational opportunities for its citizens. Adhering to the planning program will provide tangible benefits for future generations as well as the immediate needs of the people.

PART II – DESCRIPTION OF PLANNING REGION

Physical Characteristics

Introduction

Identifying the physical features that make up Oneida County is essential in determining the potential, as well as, the limitations of recreation development. Recreation planners use this kind of data to determine which resources should be developed and which would best be protected or preserved.

Geography

Oneida County is located in the north central part of the state and is well known for its physical and natural qualities. This area was once part of a vast forest region covering much of the Great Lakes area. Today, Oneida County serves as a popular vacation area and community center of the north. The physical resources are a key factor in the economic structure of the area evidenced by the number of paper and wood industry establishments in the County. The County is easily accessible by both highway and air systems. See Map 1 for Oneida County's location within the State of Wisconsin. Oneida County is adjacent to Forest, Langlade, Lincoln, Price, and Vilas Counties. Oneida County is composed of twenty (20) towns and one (1) city.

MAP 1: Oneida County, Wisconsin



Climate

Oneida County's climate type is in the continental classification. The summers have warm but not excessively hot days and cool nights. Winters are long, cold, and snowy. Mean annual precipitation is almost 30.66 inches. Snow cover on the ground and ice cover on the lakes lasts from December to April. The growing season generally spans late May to early September, for an average frost-free growing season of 124 days. Prevailing winds come out of the northwest from late fall through spring, and from the southwest during the remainder of the year. Winter in Oneida County is very conducive to snowmobiling and skiing due to its long duration and frequent occurrences of fresh snow. Summer provides a comfortable environment for camping, fishing, and other activities.

Topography

The surface features of Oneida County have resulted from the various stages of glaciation during the last ice age. Oneida County's landscape is primarily gently rolling, heavily wooded countryside dotted with many small block lakes. The entire county lies within what geologists call the "Northern Highlands" physiographic region of Wisconsin. The topography is rather uniform in elevation ranging between 1,460' above sea level in the southeastern part of the county to 1,735' above sea level in the northwestern part of the county. The drainage pattern in the county is irregular and characterized by a number of lakes, bogs, and marshes.

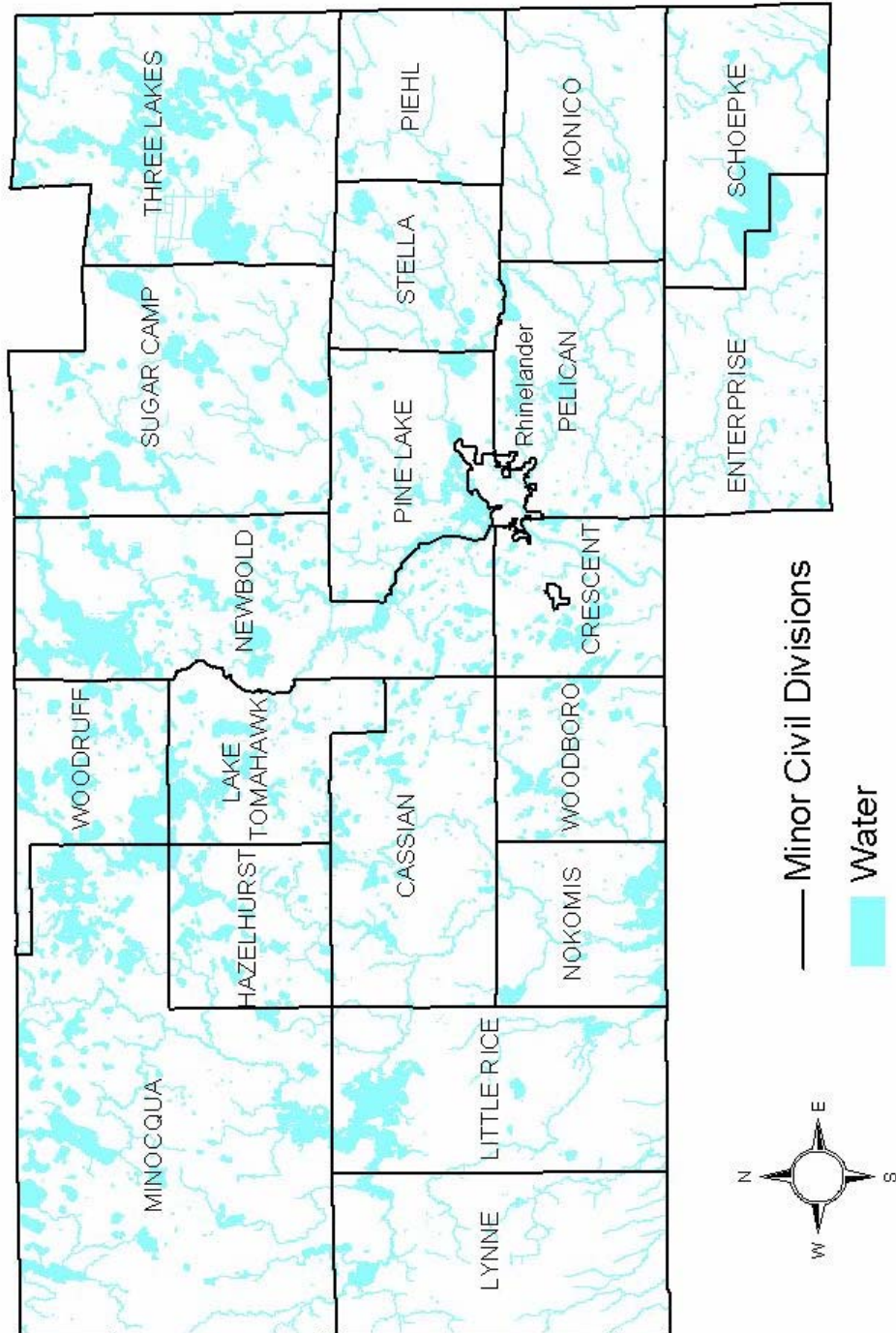
Surface Water

Oneida County has a total surface area of approximately 790,963 acres, however, 71,283 acres (9.01%) is comprised of surface water (See Map 2). The majority of this area is comprised of 426 named lakes and 701 unnamed lakes totaling 66,545 acres and 2,056 acres respectively. The largest natural lake is Lake Tomahawk at 3,627 acres and the largest artificial water body is the Willow Reservoir at 5,135 acres. The deepest lake is Clear Lake, which measures approximately 100 feet at its deepest point. The County contains 830 miles of streams, of which about 192 miles are classified as trout streams. The Three Lakes area holds the world's largest chain of freshwater lakes. While most of the County drains into the Wisconsin River, a small area in the southeast drains into the Wolf River and another small area in the northwest drains through a series of river systems until ultimately reaching the upper Mississippi River. Oneida County's extensive water resource provides a great deal of recreational opportunities such as boating, sailing, skiing, fishing, swimming, canoeing, and ice fishing as well as great aesthetic value. From the tranquil lakes of the northern part of the county to the wild untouched area of the Willow Flowage, Oneida County has wide variety of options for water recreation development.

Groundwater

Even though, the quality of water varies somewhat by aquifer, the groundwater is generally considered to be of good quality in Oneida County. Groundwater in the sand and gravel aquifer is higher in iron and more easily polluted than groundwater in the bedrock aquifer. Water hardness varies from mostly soft to moderately hard in both the sand and gravel and bedrock aquifers.

MAP 2: Surface Water in Oneida County



Geology

Oneida County's geology is primarily defined by the role of glaciation. The entire County was covered by glacial ice during the most recent glaciation period and this activity formed several distinct types of glacial deposits. Glacial till, which is an unsorted mixture of gravel, sand, silt, clay and occasional boulders, forms the deposits that make up the end moraine, or edge of the advance of the glacier. Adjacent to these end moraine deposits are glacial ground moraine deposits, similar to glacial till, but with a rolling, undulated type of topography. Throughout the County, scattered areas relatively permeable sand and gravel are a result of outwash, or sediment deposits created by streams flowing away from a melting glacier. The numerous lakes, streams, and wetlands of the county are directly related to glacial action. The surface water system is a result of the melting effect of the ice sheet that covered this part of the state. While, the distribution of lakes is not uniform across the County, streams may be found throughout. Over time, some glacial lakes slowly turn to swamps and marshes and often appear as a wet forest or plant community with black spruce, tamarack, cedar, and ash forests. Swamps and marshes also exist in areas with poor drainage.

Soils

The soils of Oneida County are primarily comprised of eroded glacial deposits. Considerable variation occurs in soil types over short distances partly due to the variety of materials carried by the ice. Soil properties are important considerations when planning and developing recreation facilities. To help evaluate soils, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) publishes a Soil Survey Report. The most recent soil survey for Oneida County was completed and issued in February 1993. Soil surveys contain an abundance of information on appropriate site planning with respect to soil suitability and developmental properties by soil type. The soil types identified in the survey are extremely important to the evaluation of suitability for recreational uses.

Oneida County is underlain by Precambrian igneous and metamorphic bedrock, which is a southerly extension of the Canadian Shield. A bedrock geology map published by the University of Wisconsin shows the distribution of rock types. Most of the rock is obscured by surficial glacial deposits as much as 300 feet thick, but more than 100 rock outcrops have been noted in the county. The exposures of bedrock commonly are in the southeastern townships of Monico, Pelican, and Schoepke and in the extreme northeastern Three Lakes Township, but a few are in the western half of the county. Most of the outcrops are greenstone or granite, but some are diorite, diabase, gneiss, or metamorphosed sandstone.

Most of Oneida County is a pitted outwash plain formed by glacial meltwater streams that sorted glacial deposits. Other deposits are lacustrine in origin and are representative of lakes present during interglacial periods. Generally, these deposits border the present lakes, rivers, and streams or in scattered small areas within areas of glacial till.

Wildlife

Oneida County hosts a wide variety of wildlife including 55 species of mammals, 17 species of amphibians, 13 species of reptiles, over 200 species of resident and migrant birds. The 1,127 lakes in Oneida County support the state's largest population of both osprey (78 nesting pairs) and river otter. These same lakes support 106 pairs of nesting bald eagles, over 200 pairs of

nesting common loons, and over 200 beaver colonies. The forests of Oneida County support a large population of white-tailed deer, black bear, ruffed grouse, woodcock, snowshoe hare, red fox, and coyotes. Other common mammals include porcupine, bobcat, otter, raccoon, skunk, squirrels, fisher, muskrat, and mink. In recent years, gray wolves have expanded their range in Wisconsin and Oneida County has six wolf packs. The most common nesting waterfowl are mallards, wood ducks, and blue-winged teal. An estimated 50 pairs of Canada geese and 40 pairs of sandhill cranes now nest in suitable habitat. Oneida County supports abundant wildlife because of the diverse northern forests and numerous lakes.

Woodland

The forests are Oneida County's major resource accounting for approximately 80% of the county's land area - 95% of which is commercial forests. The composition of the forested land is approximately 43% aspen-white birch, 26 % spruce-fir and other conifers, 15% sugar maple-basswood-birch, 11% pines, 3% elm-ash and other lowland hardwood, and 2% oak. Prior to settlement, the vegetative cover was a mixture of hemlock, northern hardwood, and pine tree types. Most of the white pine was logged in the early 1900's followed by the hardwood and hemlock in later years. After logging, only mixed hardwoods were left. Aspen now covers large areas, especially in the burned region west of the Wisconsin River.

Social Characteristics

Introduction

Social and economic factors give a general feeling of how trends in recreational needs might be changing. Developing an understanding of these characteristics and their trends help direct future planning efforts.

Population

Current population levels are important when considering the demand on recreational facilities. Long-range projections are important when planning for adequate supply to meet expected demands. Therefore, population demographics are perhaps the most crucial element in recreation planning and should be heavily considered as a high priority when planning for the improvement or development of County recreation facilities. According to 2000 Census Data, Oneida County has a population base of 36,776 people. This figure represents about .69 of 1% of the State's total population.

Table 1: Historical Population by County, 1980 - 2000

County	1980	1990	2000	Change	% Change	2010 Projection
Forest	9,044	8,776	10,024	980	10.84%	10,350
Langlade	19,978	19,505	20,740	762	3.81%	21,616
Lincoln	26,555	26,993	29,641	3,086	11.62%	30,511
Oneida	31,216	31,679	36,776	5,560	17.81%	38,284
Vilas	16,535	17,707	21,033	4,498	27.20%	22,009
Wisconsin	4,705,335	4,891,769	5,363,675	658,340	13.99%	5,751,470

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Wisconsin Department of Administration, and NCWRPC

From Table 1, the population of Oneida County has increased by 17.81% or by 5,560 people since 1980. By the year 2010, it is anticipated that there will be approximately 38,284 people in

Oneida County (WisDOA, Population Projections). Table 2 provides more specific population counts categorized by municipality. Between 1980 and 2000, the majority of communities within Oneida County have experienced an increase in their population base. The Towns of Cassian, Hazelhurst, Lake Tomahawk, Little Rice, Minocqua, and Nokomis show the most significant increases in population over this time. Meanwhile the Towns of Pelican and Schoepke show measurable decreases in population. The City of Rhinelander and the Towns of Enterprise, Piehl, and Pine Lake are the most static in population change.

Population Age

The age composition of a given population is also important in projecting future recreational needs. As Oneida County grows in size, its population composition will favor older ages. Table 3 shows that in 1990, persons under 20 years of age comprised 26% of the total County population. In 2000, this decreased by 2% and is projected to decrease by another 5% by 2010. Meanwhile, the 1990 to 2000 rate of increase for persons 65 years and older is expected to continue. This demographic change directs recreational planning efforts toward provision of facilities that offer moderate activities suitable to a senior population. Even so, Oneida County should not assume that recreational opportunities for younger population should be abandoned. Given the large number of tourists who visit the County throughout the year, there is still a demand for outdoor recreation suitable for all ages.

Table 2: Historical Population by MCD, 1980 - 2000

Minor Civil Division	1980	1990	2000	1980 to 1990	1990 to 2000	1980 to 2000
Cassian town	585	668	962	14.19%	44.01%	64.44%
Crescent town	1,702	1,794	2,071	5.41%	15.44%	21.68%
Enterprise town	277	271	274	-2.17%	1.11%	-1.08%
Hazelhurst town	780	927	1,267	18.85%	36.68%	62.44%
Lake Tomahawk town	738	851	1,160	15.31%	36.31%	57.18%
Little Rice town	172	196	314	13.95%	60.20%	82.56%
Lynne town	185	157	210	-15.14%	33.76%	13.51%
Minocqua town	3,328	3,486	4,859	4.75%	39.39%	46.00%
Monico town	291	294	364	1.03%	23.81%	25.09%
Newbold town	2,171	2,281	2,710	5.07%	18.81%	24.83%
Nokomis town	883	999	1,363	13.14%	36.44%	54.36%
Pelican town	3,387	3,198	2,902	-5.58%	-9.26%	-14.32%
Piehl town	94	66	93	-29.79%	40.91%	-1.06%
Pine Lake town	2,656	2,494	2,720	-6.10%	9.06%	2.41%
Rhineland city	7,873	7,382	7,735	-6.24%	4.78%	-1.75%
Schoepke town	399	378	352	-5.26%	-6.88%	-11.78%
Stella town	489	525	633	7.36%	20.57%	29.45%
Sugar Camp town	1,337	1,376	1,781	2.92%	29.43%	33.21%
Three Lakes town	1,864	2,003	2,339	7.46%	16.77%	25.48%
Woodboro town	547	699	685	27.79%	-2.00%	25.23%
Woodruff town	1,458	1,634	1,982	12.07%	21.30%	35.94%
Oneida County Totals	31,216	31,679	36,776	1.48%	16.09%	17.81%

Source: US Census Bureau and NCWRPC

Table 3: Oneida County Population by Age Group 1990 to 2000 and 2010 (projected)

Age Group	1990	% of Total	2000	% of Total	2010	% of Total
Under 20 Years	8,180	26%	8,961	24%	7,418	19%
20 – 64 Years	17,776	56%	20,931	57%	23,168	61%
65 Years +	5,723	18%	6,884	19%	7,698	20%
Total	31,679	100%	36,776	100%	38,284	100%

Source: Wisconsin Department of Administration and NCWRPC

Employment

The number of persons employed in Oneida County has almost doubled since 1980. The 2000 Census estimated 18,311 individuals in the civilian labor force and a 6.1% unemployment rate – higher than the State's average of 4.7%. Oneida County has historically had an unemployment rate that was .5 to one percent higher than state average, but considerably lower than the national average. The major employment sectors have traditionally been heavy and light manufacturing industries, most notably the pulp and paper producing industry, and other forestry related industries. The government, retail trade, and service sector industries are also significant employers in the county. Table 4 provides a summary of industrial employment in the month of March to avoid over-counting employment numbers due to summer seasonal employment generated by a high influx of tourists during the warmer months.

Table4: Employment by Job Sector, Oneida County, 1980 to 2000.

Job Sector	1980	1990	2000	% Change 80 - 00
Government	1,730	1,847	2,747	58.8%
Agriculture, Forestry, & Fishing	91	205	286	214.3%
Construction	441	431	884	100.5%
Manufacturing	2,101	1,985	2,134	1.6%
Transportation, Communication, Utilities	427	572	659	54.3%
Wholesale Trade	236	373	436	84.8%
Retail Trade	2,204	3,135	4,281	94.2%
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	417	452	443	6.2%
Services	2,279	3,728	4,866	113.5%
Totals	9,943	12,192	18,753	88.6%

Source: Department of Workforce Development covered employment, 1st Quarter (end of March)

The fastest growing sectors in the County appear to be Agriculture & Forestry, Construction, Wholesale Trade, Retail Trade, and Services. The slowest growth rates are in Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate while the manufacturing sector is almost at a standstill.

Transportation

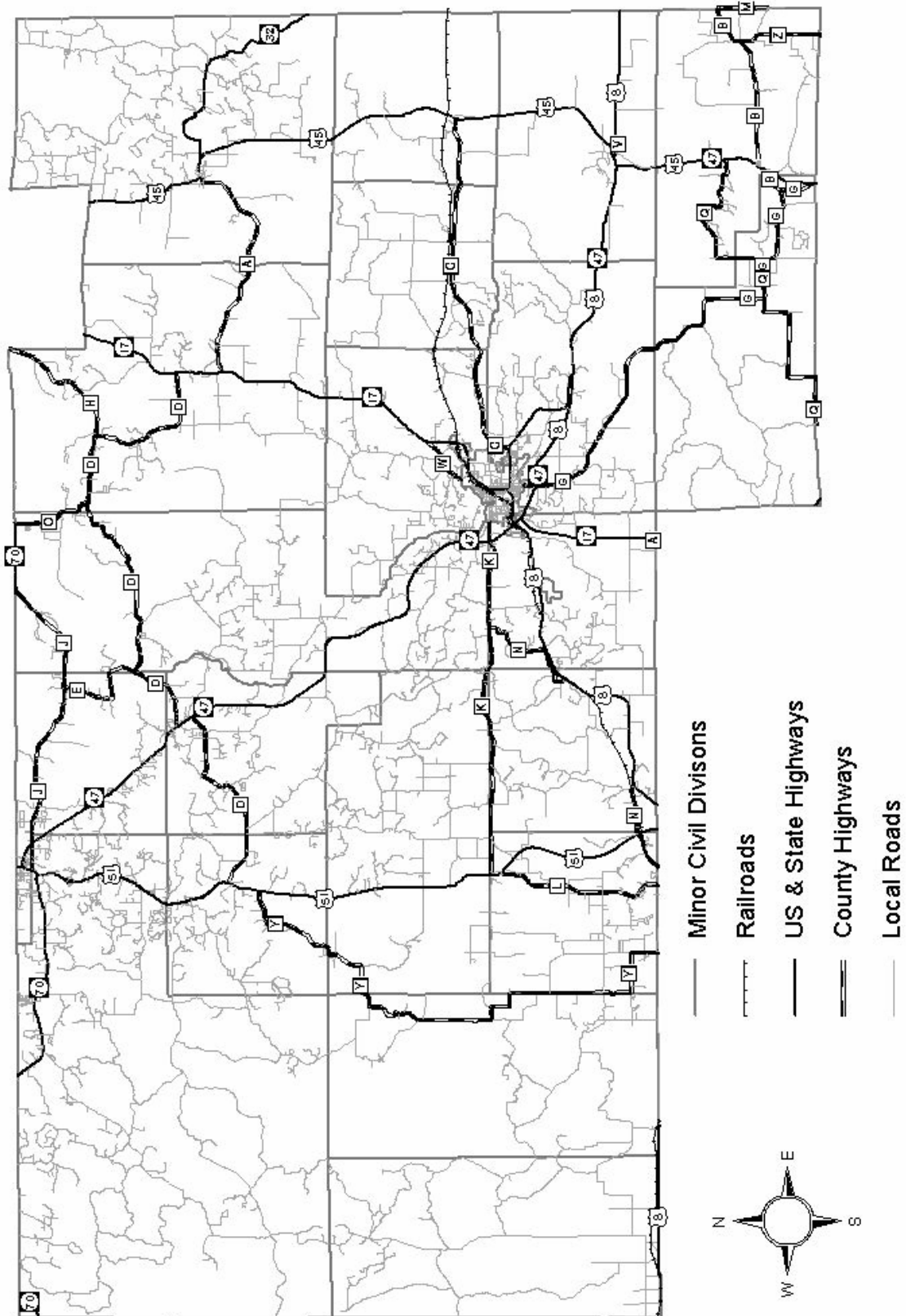
Oneida County is served by three major US Highways: 39, 8, and 45. US 39 runs north-south through the west central portion of the County and the Minocqua area, US 8 runs east-west through the southern part of the County and the City of Rhinelander, and US 45 runs north-south on the eastern side of the County and the Three Lakes area. The County is also served by three state highways: 70, 17, and 47. Highway 70 runs east-west on the northern edge of the County and through the Woodruff area, Highway 17 serves the central part of the County running north-south through the City of Rhinelander, and Highway 47 runs in a southeast-northwest track through the City of Rhinelander and the Woodruff area. These highways link the County with the North Central Wisconsin's major cities: Wausau, Stevens Point, Merrill, and Eagle River. The

Wisconsin Central Limited Railroad runs east-west across the County through the City of Rhinelander. There are two airports in the County: 1) Rhinelander-Oneida County Airport, which is rated for Transport and Commercial flights; and 2) Three Lakes Municipal Airport, which is rated Basic Utility 2 for light twin-engine planes. These transportation systems are like vital arteries important to both industry and tourism. Map 3 details the locations of highways, airports, and railroads within the County.

Land-Use

Based upon satellite imagery, a generalization of Oneida County's land uses could be described as follows: Only 3.5% of Oneida County is considered developed by residential, commercial, and industrial uses with the associated road and rail networks that connect these uses. The majority of the land in Oneida County is covered in forests comprising 80.5% of the total land area. 8.6% is covered by open water and the balance of 7.4% is utilized by agricultural uses or maintained as open space.

MAP 3: Oneida County Transportation System



PART III – Existing Recreation System

Introduction

Inventory data provides a blue print of existing facilities to aid in identifying the service area of the existing recreation system. Once identified, demand for new facilities can be measured and analyzed. Plans for future developments are then outlined in order to maximize the utility and economy of the new facility. The following is an inventory of the existing recreational facilities as provided by Federal, State, or Local governments and private sector entities.

Federal Facilities

Nicolet National Forest

Only a small portion of the Nicolet is actually within Oneida County; the entire forest measures over 660,000 acres in size but only 11,000 acres are located in the County. Even so, it still offers numerous recreational activities for County visitors and residents. These activities include camping, sightseeing, picnicking, hunting, snow shoeing, cross country skiing, biking, and boating. The primary recreational facility in the forest is the Laurel Lake campground near Three Lakes. Numerous boat accesses are located on several lakes for dispersed recreation.

State Facilities

Trails

The Bearskin Trail, a State Park Recreation Trail along an abandoned railroad bed, runs from Minocqua to County Highway K and allows biking, hiking, and snowmobiles. The trail is 18 miles long and features rolling hills, stream crossings, and access to several lakes.

Northern Highland American Legion State Forest

Some 51,000 acres of the Northern Highland American Legion State Forest occurs in Oneida County. The State Forest offers a wide variety of developed recreational opportunities including campgrounds, remote camp sites, ski trails, picnic areas, swimming beaches, hiking/interpretive trails, snowmobile trails, and numerous boat access sites. The State Forest is managed for a wide variety of outdoor recreation activities, wildlife habitat, and forest products. In addition to these recreational resources, the Forest also contributes substantially to the area supply of pulpwood and saw lumber. Under the State's management policies, activities involving forestry, wildlife, fisheries, watershed protection, and aesthetics need to be balanced.

Scientific and/or Natural Areas

Through cooperative agreements, the State designates certain areas as official State Natural Areas. Currently, there are ten designated State Natural Areas in Oneida County. The Department of Natural Resources manages seven Natural Areas including: Rice Lake-Thunder Marsh, Stone Lake Pines, Windpudding Lake Aquatics, Patterson Hemlocks, Atkins Lake Bog, Tomahawk River Pines, and Squirrel River Pines. The Nature Conservancy manages the Holmboe Conifer Forest. Oneida County manages the Gobler Lake Esker/Bog, and the University of Wisconsin manages the Finnerud Pines.

State Wildlife Management Areas

The Department of Natural Resources manages two State Wildlife Management Areas in Oneida County including the 3,100-acre Thunder Marsh Wildlife Area near Three Lakes and the 3,050-acre Woodboro Wildlife Area in the Town of Woodboro. These areas offer public hunting and general outdoor recreation.

Willow Flowage Scenic Waters Area

The Department of Natural Resources manages the 16,000-acre Willow Flowage Scenic Waters Area. The property offers abundant boating, fishing, and general outdoor recreation opportunities. The 6,400-acre flowage offers 35 remote, semi-primitive campsites, boat landings, and 117 islands. The forests are managed for general outdoor recreation, forest products, and wildlife habitat.

Waysides

Highway waysides, such as the Memorial Forest Wayside, offer travelers a comfortable place to take a break from the road to view relaxing aesthetics and utilize recreational space. They also serve as neighborhood parks for local community residents. The Wisconsin Department of Transportation maintains one site in the County located approximately half way between Rhinelander and Monico on Hwy 8. Another waystation, formerly owned by the DOT, is maintained by the Town of Nokomis and is locally known as the “Bearskin Creek” waystation off of Hwy 51.

County Facilities

Oneida County provides for the maintenance of many recreational facilities. These facilities are detailed in Part IV of this plan and include: Almon Park, Townline Park, Perch Lake Park, Willow Rapids Picnic Area, Bass Lake Park, and many trails. Please refer to Part IV for more detailed information.

Other Local Facilities

School Districts

Oneida County is stratified into seven different school districts, each providing additional local recreational opportunities. Schoolyards range from one-half to fifteen acres in size and often have playgrounds with play equipment, ball diamonds, and basketball hoops. In addition to the playgrounds, many school districts operate “school forests”. These forests are open to the public for recreational and educational uses.

The School Forest Systems and the Ced Vig Nature Center

The School Forest System totals over 1,200 acres in size and is comprised of numerous parcels spread over the Towns of Pelican, Crescent, Newbold, and Pine Lake. This land supports the Ced A. Vig Outdoor Classroom and Nature Center. The goal of the Ced A. Vig Outdoor Classroom (CAVOC) is to teach children an appreciation for their surroundings and learn how they fit into the schemes of the natural world. The land also serves recreational purposes for students and Scouting organizations. Other School Forest Systems within the County include those maintained by Tomahawk, Three Lakes, Minocqua, and Elcho School Districts.

Wisconsin Valley Improvement Company

The Wisconsin Valley Improvement Company operates recreational facilities on nine reservoirs within Oneida County. Most of the facilities are located near the dam sites of reservoirs. The facilities are listed below ordered by reservoir name:

Reservoir Name	Rest-rooms	Parking Area	Drive-in Boat Access	Carry-in Boat Access	Canoe Portage	Fishing Access	Paved Walkway
Burnt Rollways (Three Lakes Chain)	X	X	X		X		
North Pelican				X	X	X	
South Pelican				X			
Minocqua					X	X	
Squirrel					X		
Rice (Nokomis)			X				
Rainbow		X			X	X	X
Willow			X		X	X	
Lower Nine Mile & Seven Mile						X	
Sugar Camp					X		

Golf

There are four public golf courses, one semi-public course, and one private course in the County. The public courses are:

- * Big Stone Golf Course -a nine hole course, in the Town of Three Lakes
- * Pinewood Golf Course - a nine hole course, Town of Cassian
- * Jim Peck's Wildwood Golf Course - a nine hole course, Town of Woodruff
- * Northwood Golf Course - an eighteen hole course, City of Rhinelander

The semi-public Timber Ridge Golf Course is an eighteen hole course in the Town of Minocqua; the Rhinelander Country Club is a private nine hole course located in Rhinelander.

Private Campgrounds

In addition to the government funded campgrounds, there are also many private campgrounds and campsites in Oneida County. Many of these sites are located near lakes with boat launching facilities.

Forested Lands

Industrial forests are a prominent land-use in Oneida County. Principal large-tract owners are Plum Creek, Tomahawk Timber Lands, Tomahawk Highlands, Wachovia, Wausau Paper Mills Company, and the Wisconsin Valley Improvement Company. Any public use of these lands is dependent upon company policy. Presently, these companies do allow public access for the recreational purposes of hunting, fishing, hiking, skiing, and sightseeing, however users should become acquainted with a respective company's policies before utilizing their lands. In the Town of Monico, Plum Creek has a self-guided, 17-mile, vehicle tour, through their industrial forest with 20 points of interest.

PART IV – Inventory of Existing Oneida County Facilities

County Parks

Due to the large seasonal population, the usage of Oneida County Parks has a direct effect on the economy of the County. The tourism industry places a heavy emphasis on recreation and therefore depends upon the provision of adequate facilities for a variety of recreational activities. Parks form the foundation of recreational activity in Oneida County and therefore it is important to maintain existing facilities and develop new ones to serve the demand. Map 4 at the end of this section shows the locations of these parks and recreation areas within the County and they are detailed below.

Almon Recreation Area

Almon Park, the largest of the County's parks, is located on the shores of Buck Lake and is approximately 160 acres in size. The park is comprised of two parts: the park area, and the nature trails area. The park area has a swimming beach, two shelters with picnic tables and grills, paved parking, and restroom facilities with changing rooms. There is also a large shelter with picnic tables and grills near another paved parking area close to an open area for field games. The nature trails area also has a paved parking area. The trails form loops, each measuring approximately two miles, and are signed for hiking and snowshoe use.

Perch Lake Park

Perch Lake Park has approximately five acres of developed area on Perch Lake and is surrounded by the county forest. There is a boat landing, a parking area, and a picnic area with tables, grills, and restrooms.

Townline Park

Townline Park has approximately 21 acres and is comprised of two parts. The part on the south side of Townline Lake on County Highway K is a swimming beach area that has picnic tables, grills, paved parking, and restroom facilities with changing rooms. The part on the east side of the lake has a paved parking area, restroom facilities, play equipment, paved boat landing and launching pier, and two picnic shelters with tables and grills.

Willow Rapids Picnic Area

Willow Rapids Picnic Area is a small, unimproved picnic area with minimal facilities. It is located near the scenic Willow Rapids between the Willow Flowage and the Willow River.

Bass Lake Park

Bass Lake Park is very similar to Perch Lake Park. There is a boat landing, a parking area, and a picnic area with tables, grills, and restrooms.

Public Lake Access

The Oneida County Forestry Department currently maintains eight public accesses:

1. Bass Lake, Town of Enterprise
2. Bass Lake, Town of Little Rice
3. Flannery Lake, Town of Newbold
4. Perch Lake, Town of Woodboro
5. Tom Doyle Lake, Town of Newbold
6. Townline Lake, Town of Newbold
7. Wisconsin River, Town of Newbold, Cty Hwy O
8. Wisconsin River, Town of Pine Lake, Journey's End Road

Linear Parks

Snowmobile Trails

Oneida County has approximately 1,075 miles of established public snowmobile trails: 480 miles are state-funded (of which 405 miles are county sponsored and 75 miles are state sponsored) and 600 miles are club-funded, non-sponsored snowmobile trails. Map 6 shows the location of the state-funded and club-funded trails, but there are also numerous road routes available for snowmobiling throughout the County. The state-funded trails sponsored by Oneida County are maintained by the Oneida County Snowmobile Council. The Council is comprised of ten snowmobile clubs that meet monthly during the snowmobile season to provide continuous input toward the future direction of the County's snowmobile program.

ATV Trail

Oneida County contains 24 miles of All Terrain Vehicle (ATV) trails: 20 miles are state-funded and sponsored by Oneida County, 4 miles are club funded. The state funded ATV trails in Oneida County are divided into two trail segments. Segment 1 is located in southwestern Oneida County and consists of 10 miles of off-road trail connected by approximately 8 miles of ATV road routes. This segment is usually open for public ATV use from Memorial Day to December 1st. The off road miles of this segment are located on State-owned, and Private Industrial Forest lands that exist under short-term land use agreements with the County for public use of ATVs. Segment 2 is located in south central Oneida County and consists of 10 miles of off-road trails that connect to approximately 75 miles of additional ATV trails located in Lincoln and Langlade Counties to the south. This segment is generally open to public ATV use from Memorial Day to March 15th. All trail miles within this segment are located on Oneida County Forest Land. Segment 3 is comprised of 4 miles of off-road, club-funded ATV trails located on County-owned forest land in the west central portion of the County. This segment of trail connects with approximately 40 miles of ATV road routes. Segment 3 is typically open to the public from Memorial Day to March 15th. In addition to the above described ATV trails, there are approximately 200 miles of unsigned (non-marked) woodland trails located on Oneida County Forest Land that are open to all motorized vehicles year-round. During the winter months (generally December 15th – March 15th), the Oneida County Forestry Department opens all woodland trails on County Forest land (with the exception of those trails maintained for skiing and snowmobiling) to motorized vehicle use. This opens up an additional 200 miles of woodland

trail for winter ATV use. There are currently ten miles of additional ATV trails that are still pending access approval.

Biking and Hiking Trails

The Oneida County Board of Supervisors approved the Oneida County Pedestrian and Bicycle Corridors Plan in 2002 as part of the community health plan. This plan refers to potential corridors for bike and pedestrian traffic using existing and proposed infrastructure. A copy of the executive summary of the plan may be found in Appendix A.

Mountain Bike Trails

The Oneida County Forestry Department maintains approximately five miles of traditional mountain bike trails in the central portion of the County. In addition, there are approximately five additional miles of single-track bike trail.

Cross Country Ski Trails

The Oneida County Forestry Department maintains approximately 55 miles of cross-country ski trails distributed in four areas of the County. All of these trails are marked and groomed on a regular basis. They are as follows:

The Cassian Two-Way Ski Trail: This fifteen-mile (round trip) trail originates on County Highway K. There is a shelter and restroom at the halfway point of the trail. This trail is groomed for diagonal skiing only.

The Washburn Ski Trail: This trail is nine miles long and is located on Washburn Lake Road. All nine miles are groomed for classic diagonal skiing. Five miles of the trail are groomed for dual use (both ski skating and classic diagonal skiing). The facility has a shelter and gravel vehicle parking lot on the trail.

The Nose Lake Ski Touring Trail: A ten-mile trail located on Nose Lake Road. This trail is groomed for classic diagonal skiing and is the only county-maintained ski trail that permits dogs.

The Enterprise Ski Touring Trail - Unit 1: Seven miles long and located at County Highway G and Zimmer Road. This trail is groomed for classic diagonal skiing. The facility has a gravel parking lot.

Snowshoe Trails

The Oneida County Forestry Department maintains two snowshoe trail loops totaling approximately five miles. These trails are located at the Almon Park facility in southeastern Oneida County.

Hiking/Hunter Walking Trails

The County Forestry Department has developed a network of approximately 40 miles of trails for wildlife management and recreational purposes. The trail network is located on old logging roads that have been seeded with clover and are maintained to serve as wildlife migration paths and as walking trails for hunters and hikers.

Scenic Roads

Sightseeing has long been one of the most popular activities for visitors to the northern region of the state. Certain county and local roads are designated as scenic particularly during the fall season when the tree leaves turn a variety of colors.

Street Legal Motorized Vehicle Routes

Licensed, street legal vehicles are authorized on open logging roads and County Forest roads. Many of these vehicles utilize four-wheel drive features or are designed for both on and off-road use. The challenge of surmounting difficult terrain features and outdoor scenery are the main draw for this recreational activity.

County Forest Lands

The public is allowed to utilize approximately 82,211 acres of forested land for recreational purposes in Oneida County. The “Ten-Year County Forest Plan”, developed by the Forestry Department, explains the policy of public use for recreational purposes within the County Forest.

Other County Managed Lands

Spruce Lake Waterfowl Management Area

This area utilizes a dike and water control structure to allow the water level to be manipulated. Raising and lowering the water level allows nature managers to maintain aquatic vegetation for waterfowl to use as food and cover.

Willow Lake Dam/Spillway Area

A dam/spillway creates the impoundment known as Willow Lake. This area has a recreational trail crossing and provides a beneficial fish and wildlife habitat.

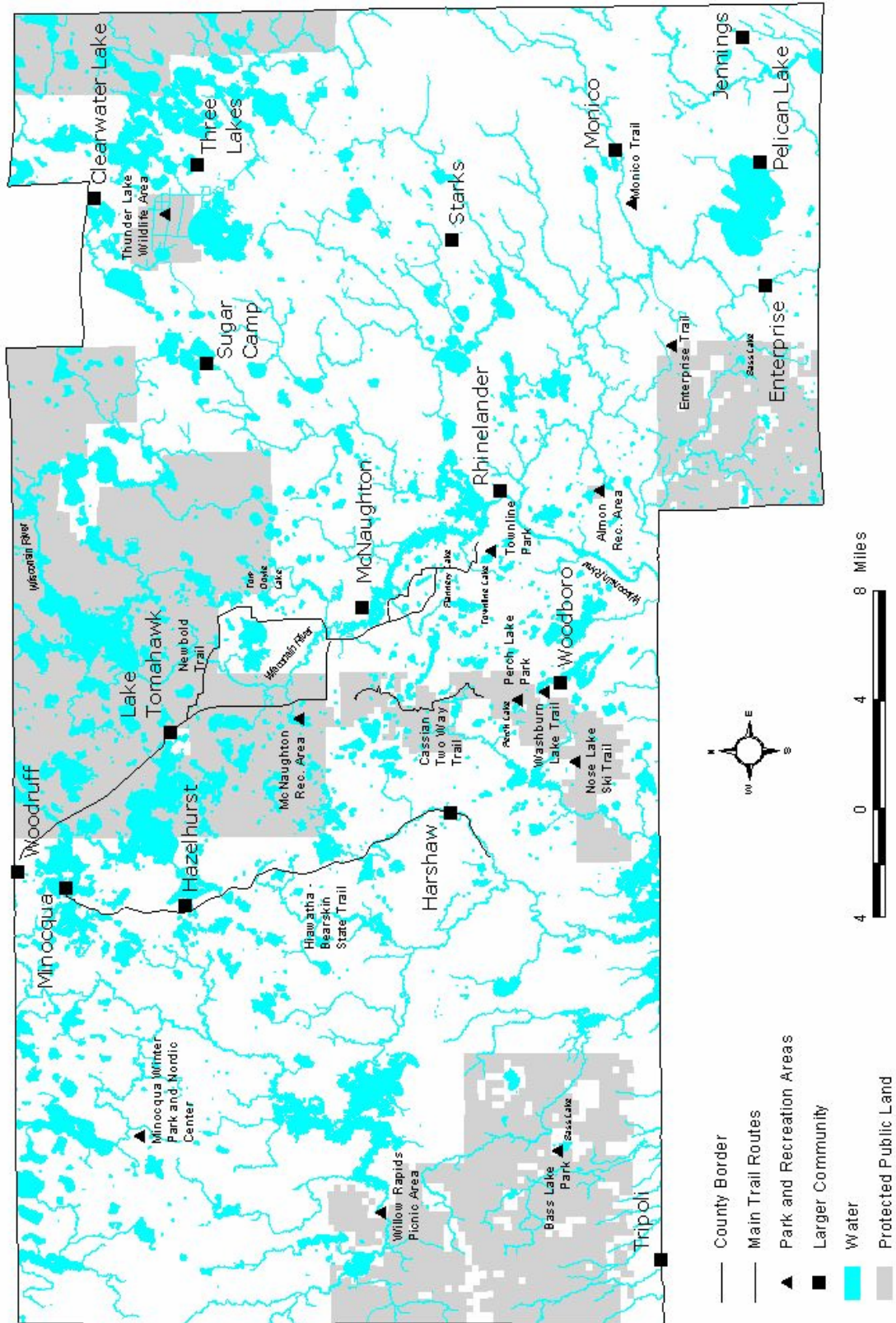
Highway O Fishing Bridge

This is an abandoned County Highway bridge under the ownership of the County Forestry Department. The bridge spans the Wisconsin River and is primarily used for fishing and as a river crossing for snowmobiles and cross-country skiing.

Points of Interest

Oneida County contains several historic points of interest. These points of interest may be of significance on cultural, aesthetic, recreational, or scientific grounds.

Map 4 - Oneida County - Parks and Recreation Areas



PART V - Outdoor Recreational Needs Assessment

Introduction

Recreational needs within the County have been identified by three principal means: 1) obtaining input from public participation 1) at public meetings, 2) by survey, and 3) through analysis of land/facility standards. Municipalities are evaluated by how well they fulfill their responsibilities in meeting the recreational needs are evaluated by how well municipalities are fulfilling their responsibilities in the provision of facilities.

Public Participation

Multiple public meetings and a written survey were used to obtain public participation and input regarding recreation management, facilities, and opportunities on County Forest Lands and within County maintained parks. Survey distribution methods included placing notice of the survey in the local newspaper, posting a downloadable version on two websites, and providing copies to local recreation enthusiasts throughout the county. This particular survey did not address recreational facilities in Oneida County that are owned and maintained by the Towns or the City of Rhineland.

Summary

The respondents represented a variety of individuals and interest groups. Fifty percent of the respondents were between 45 to 64 years of age, another 39% were between the ages of 20 to 44. Of these respondents, just under 5% had a physical condition that would require special recreational features. The recreational activities enjoyed the most by the respondents in the last 12 months were as follows: 1) Swimming and Hiking; 2) Camping, Bicycling, and Fishing; 3) Canoeing, Cross Country Skiing, and Hunting; 4) Sightseeing, Motorboating, and Picnicking. Other popular activities included Driving for Pleasure, All-Terrain Vehicles, and Snowmobiling. Most respondents frequented the Almon Park Recreational Area, while the Willow Rapids Picnic Area and Bass Lake Park were the least frequented. A complete copy of this survey and its results may be found in Appendix C.

Standards Analysis

Activity standards are used to determine how well recreational facilities are serving County residents and visitors as therefore play an important role in the design of new facilities and the improvement of existing sites. Appendix B shows a set of activity standards devised by the Wisconsin DNR Bureau of Planning and is modified to suit conditions found in the North Central Region by the NCWRPC. No attempt was made to apply these standards to specific recreational facilities in Oneida County because of the lack of reliable statistics for such small unit areas. The standards have been provided simply to serve as an aid for analyzing specific recreation site proposals.

Probably the most accepted way of measuring the adequacy of a recreational system is to evaluate whether the amount of land dedicated to recreational space is sufficiently adequate to the meet the demands of the full range of facilities and activities needed for the community. Table 6 presents the acreage standard for each jurisdiction and type of park.

Table 6 – Population Ratio Space Standards by Jurisdiction

Jurisdiction	Type	Acreage Standard
Local	Neighborhood Community Town	2 acres / 1,000 persons
		5 acres / 1,000 persons
		<u>5 acres / 1,000 persons</u>
		12 acres / 1,000 persons
County	All Types	15 acres / 1,000 persons
State	All Types	75 acres / 1,000 persons

Source: National Rec. and Park Association and NCWRPC

The values given in Table 6 should not be considered as absolutes, but as a flexible planning guideline. Using Table 6, Table 7 applies the acreage standard to the City of Rhinelander and Oneida County as a whole. The estimated acreage “demand” is then compared to the existing amount of recreational acres to determine the surplus/need. For example, Oneida County’s population without Rhinelander in 2000 is 29,041; taking this total and dividing by 1,000 then multiplying the result by 15 acres gives a demand of 435.62 acres. Although not everyone engages in outdoor recreation activities, it is still customary to consider potential users when assessing local and regional recreation demands. From Table 7, there appears to be a small deficiency of recreational space in the City of Rhinelander, however, residents have access to an abundance of recreational space in the surrounding Towns. Most of Oneida County's recreational space and trail networks are located in the extensive National, State, and County forests. Actual “park-like” settings are limited, especially in the eastern and western portions of the County.

Table 7 - Current Demand for Recreational Space (acres), Oneida County, WI

Community	2000		
	Demand	Existing	Balance
City of Rhinelander	93	82	-11
Oneida County	436	82,175	81,739

Source: Oneida County Forestry Dept. and NCWRPC

Since both residents and non-residents may participate in recreational activities in Oneida County, the model employed in Table 7 could be improved by obtaining population estimates of the number of users of outdoor recreation facilities. This would likely paint a different picture of the demand placed upon the County’s recreational space since the visitor population exceeds the local population during tourist seasons.

Wisconsin State-wide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) 2000-2005

SCORP is developed by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to assist local units of government in both recreation planning and prioritization for funding through State administered grant and assistance programs. The 2000 - 2005 Wisconsin SCORP provides an overall review of outdoor recreation in Wisconsin and identifies general trends and priorities for activities from a State perspective.

The SCORP divides outdoor activities into three categories of popularity: high, moderate, and marginal. Highly popular activities included walking, fishing, swimming, bicycling, wildlife viewing, outdoor fairs, festivals, gardening, pleasure driving, picnicking, and camping.

Moderately popular activities included most team sports (softball, basketball, etc.), snowmobiling, and canoeing. Marginally popular activities included all types of skiing, motorized trail-use activities, and horseback riding. The SCORP predicts trends in recreational use in Wisconsin and these trends are summarized in Table 8 below. Given regional differences across the state, there are some cases where Oneida County's priorities and anticipated demand do not correspond with the SCORP projections. To reflect this regional difference, Oneida County has identified the following needs ranked by the priority categories of high, medium, and low.

The County has also identified a special need for disabled access, in particular mobility impaired persons. These needs include trails, fairgrounds, fishing piers, restrooms, campgrounds, stadiums, zoos, and picnic areas that are wheelchair-accessible. Benches at frequent intervals, more accessible parking spaces, and specially designed piers are all examples of improvements for persons with mobility impairments.

Table 8: Trends in Outdoor Recreation, Wisconsin, 2000-2005

Increasing Demand	Decreasing Demand	Static Demand
RV Camping	Tent Camping	Hunting
Basketball	Backpacking	Target Shooting
Soccer	Fishing	Exercise Walking
In-Line Skating	Volleyball	Hiking
Mountain / Hybrid Biking	Softball	Off-Highway Vehicles
ATVs	Baseball	Motorboating
Off-Road Mountain Biking	Football	Water-skiing
Horseback Riding	Ice Hockey	Personal Water Craft
Snowmobiling	On-Road Bicycling	Snorkeling
Snow shoeing	Running / Jogging	Sailing
Wildlife Viewing	Roller Skating	SCUBA
Nature Study	Cross-Country Skiing	Windsurfing
Gardening	Swimming	Nature Photography
Driving for Pleasure	Canoeing	Outdoor Fairs / Festivals
	Kayaking / Rafting	Picnicking
	Mini-Golf	Golf
	Tennis	Own a Vacation Home
	Downhill Skiing	Motorcycles
	Croquet and Badminton	Ice Skating
		Skateboarding
		Snowboarding
		Rock Climbing

Source: Wisconsin SCORP, 2000 – 2005.

Table 9: Local Outdoor Recreation Priorities

High Priority Needs	Medium Priority Needs	Low Priority Needs
Cross-country skiing	Fishing	Horseback riding
ATVs	Ball fields	Off-road motorcycling trails
Camping (general)	Skateboarding	
Snowmobiling	Rollerblading	
Off-road biking	Snowboarding	
Swimming		
Fishing piers or launch accesses		
Hiking/biking trails		

PART VI – Planned Improvements & Recommendations

Introduction

The overall goal of this plan is to provide adequate recreation facilities for all Oneida County residents as well as develop the County's status as a premier recreation spot for tourists. Over the past five years (1999-2003), Oneida County has completed the following outdoor recreation projects:

- *Repaired/Replaced damaged signs at area parks.
- *Rebuilt Spruce Lake Management Area Dam to properly manage water level.
- *Rebuilt retaining wall at Almon Park swimming beach
- *Created new ski trail loop at Washburn Lake Trail System.
- *Developed a mountain bike trail system (five miles single track and five miles traditional).
- *Developed a County-wide snowmobile trail map.
- *Repaved parking lot entrance at Almon Park.
- *Developed 14 new miles of ATV trails in western and southeastern Oneida County.
- *Replaced six existing wood picnic tables with recycled plastic, ADA accessible picnic tables.
- *Installed a new metal swing gate at Almon Park.
- *Installed a new bicycle rack at Almon Park.
- *Developed a new ADA compliant restroom facility and changing facility at Almon Park swimming beach.
- *Developed a new ADA compliant restroom facility at Almon Park upper level picnic area.
- *Established two snowshoe trail loops at Almon Park totaling four miles.
- *Increased width of cross county ski trails to accommodate ski-skating.
- *Rebuilt 900 lineal feet of wetland boardwalk along the Almon Park wetland hiking trail.
- *Demolished old caretaker's house and restroom facilities at Almon Park.
- *Rebuilt concrete spillway/snowmobile crossing across Willow River.
- *Built new Forestry and Parks Department maintenance building.
- *Installed new gates throughout County Forest as part of the Forest Management Access Plan.
- *Constructed new parking lot at Washburn Multi-Use Trail System.
- *Expansion and improvement of county-wide snowmobile trail system that included 11 major bridge development projects.

Capital Improvements Programming

Capital improvements are essentially the use of labor and materials to improve the overall value and usefulness of the parks / facilities. Municipalities fund capital improvements separately from their operations budget because capital improvements are not considered to be routine maintenance. Capital improvements actually increase the value and/or usefulness of the park/facility, for example, upgrading an outdoor restroom facility for universal access would qualify as a capital improvement. Meanwhile, repainting an outdoor lavatory would be considered routine maintenance. In capital improvements programming, each facility is listed with a sub-listing of pending projects ranked in order of importance and priority. Prioritization usually follows this hierarchy:

1. Improvements to existing facilities:
 - a) To correct health and safety hazards
 - b) To update deficient facilities
 - c) To modernize adequate but outdated facilities
2. Installation of facilities as deemed necessary through citizen participation.
3. Development of new facilities as deemed necessary through comparison to park and recreation standards.

To continue the Capital Improvements Program, this section provides a five-year plan for each recreational area maintained by the Oneida County Forestry Department. These projects have been provided by the Oneida County Forestry Department and are loosely prioritized by availability of funding and are subject to change due to funding constraints. All upgrades and new construction will meet ADA standards to the fullest extent possible. Tables 10 through 19 below give a concise summary of capital improvement expenses planned by the Oneida County Forest Director on behalf of the County Forestry, Land and Outdoor Recreation Committee.

Table 10: Almon Recreational Area Capital Improvements in \$

Improvement	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Prepare Access rehabilitation plan and engineering	8,000				
ADA Compliant paved access to swimming beach and erosion		35,000			
Playground equipment			12,000		
Bring electric power to shelter, swimming beach, and parking lot				10,000	
Develop multi-use trail from parking lot to existing trails					5,000
Totals	8,000	35,000	12,000	10,000	5,000

Table 11: Townline Park Capital Improvements in \$

Improvement	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Develop / design campground facility / rehabilitation plan	5,000				
Regrade and asphalt boat landing		10,000			
Concrete boat and trailer pads		4,000			
Rehabilitate / rebuild small landing pier for boats		5,000			
Replace toilet facilities with ADA compliant (picnic area)			40,000		
Develop small overnight campground				20,000	
Purchase additional water frontage					75,000
Totals	5,000	19,000	40,000	20,000	75,000

Table 12: Perch Lake Park Capital Improvements

Improvement	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Construction plans and engineering		2,000			
Regrade blacktop boat landing				10,000	
Build boat launching dock (ADA compliant)				7,000	
Install concrete boat launching pads				4,000	
Replace restroom facility (ADA compliant)					35,000
Totals	0	2,000	0	21,000	35,000

Table 13: Washburn Lake Recreational Trail System Capital Improvements

Improvement	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Construction / Engineering Plans		5,000			
Develop new trails to connect Washburn and Cassian trails to Perch Lake			17,000		
Build warming shelter/restroom / maintenance garage facility				120,000	
Build new parking lot (highway K area)				15,000 for 50%	
Pave parking lot					15,000
Rehabilitate existing trails (grade and widen)					10,000
Electricity (lights) for parking lots					5,000
Totals	0	5,000	17,000	135,000	30,000

Table 14: Summer/Winter ATV Trail

Improvement	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Design / Engineering		3,000			
Wetland crossing bridge and culverts			75,000		
Grade and brush trail				10,000	
Totals	0	3,000	75,000	10,000	0

Table 15: Bass Lake Park / Boat Launch

Improvement	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Replace Restrooms / outhouses			30,000		
Grade parking lot and boat launch				3,000	
Install concrete boat trailer pads					5,000
Build boat launch pier					8,000
Totals	0	0	30,000	3,000	13,000

Table 16: Enterprise Camp Sites

Improvement	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Grade and seed camping pads	5,000				
Purchase 10 ADA compliant picnic tables (recycled material)		8,000			
Purchase and install fire rings		1,000			
Pit toilets materials and installation		10,000			
Totals		19,000	0	0	0

Table 17: Spruce Lake Waterfowl Management Area

Improvement	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Dredge and rip-rap around water control structure		5,000			
Develop boardwalk across wetland (link to summer trail Table 13)				75,000	
Totals	0	5,000	0	75,000	0

Table 18: Highway O Fishing Bridge/ Snowmobile Bridge

Improvement	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Engineering architectural plans	5,000				
Replace existing bridge		275,000			
Grade parking lots			10,000		
Concrete boat launch pads					8,000
Totals	5,000	275,000	10,000	0	8,000

Table 19: Conversion of Burrows Lake Gravel Pit into intensive use ATV Facility

Improvement	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Grade work				7,500	
Purchase and install approx. 1 mile chain link fence					40,000
Purchase and install access gates					5,000
Totals	0	0	0	7,500	45,000

Staffing

It is not anticipated that the Forestry Department will be hiring additional staff in the next few years. Existing staff will be responsible for implementing this plan.

Recommendations

The recommendations that follow are based on the identified goals, objectives, and needs of the County, its residents, and its visitors. Although it is unlikely that all recommendations presented in this plan will be undertaken in the next five years, they should be recognized as causes for action to be followed if the opportunity or need arises. The recommendations listed below may be implemented at the County, State, or Town government level.

Priority Criteria

Local officials will have to determine which projects should have the highest priority for funding and implementation. The priority criteria are based upon public input, established needs, and identified goals. Projects that satisfy one or more of these criteria should be considered as priority recreation needs for Oneida County. Note that individual municipalities may have priorities that deviate from these criteria due to their particular situations.

- Existing parks should be upgraded to established standards. This may involve providing additional facilities or improving existing ones and the enhancement of the natural setting through landscaping when needed.
- Provide the basic recreation facilities for those areas that lack these facilities. "Basic recreation facilities" includes those components typically found in community parks.
- Make facilities more accessible to seniors and disabled, including further development of passive use recreational activities.
- Provide adequate public access to water resources.
- Promote access to publicly owned lands.
- Upgrade support facilities found within the park system, especially sanitary facilities, parking, and access roads.
- Provide additional trail systems within Oneida County including walking and bicycle trails (including those in connection with the Oneida County Pedestrian and Bicycle Corridors Plan), ATV and snowmobile trails, and expansion of multi-use trails systems.

Action Recommendations – County

The following recommendations for county-wide outdoor recreation projects were compiled from the Oneida County Outdoor Recreation Needs Survey responses and the individual town and city recreation plans.

Wildlife Observation - Cooperate with the DNR and Forest Service "Watchable Wildlife" programs for signing and mapping, and to construct viewing pull-offs where possible.

Wildlife Habitat - Protect designated Wisconsin River wild rice areas.

Enforcement - Improve the enforcement of county forest and park rules.

Nature Interpretive Center - Develop a nature interpretive and/or outdoor skills center, as well as provide outdoor education programs during the summer.

Tobogganing/Sledding Areas - Develop a site in the northwestern Minocqua/Woodruff area of the County.

Camping - Develop a campground near the Bearskin Trail and construct or designate primitive, hike-in sites on county forest land.

Target Shooting Areas - Develop a public shooting range.

Public Fishing Areas - Acquire more easements along streams and provide additional accesses to spread use.

Water-Based Recreation

Oneida County holds an extensive system of surface water resources that provide area residents and visitors with a valuable source of recreational opportunities. The recreation survey done in conjunction with this study indicates that fishing, swimming, and boating will continue to be some of the most popular recreational activities in Oneida County.

There are a large number of public access sites on the County's waterways. However, in many cases, these sites are in need of upgrading and improvements.

County Boat Access

Upgrade/improve lake and stream access areas. Consideration should be given to the following:

1. In many cases, parking areas are inadequate.
2. Repair and improvements are needed for launching ramps and areas.
3. Signage identifying the public access sites should be improved (many sites lack signing).
4. Continued assistance to towns in improving their access sites.

Improvement of county boat accesses would enhance fishing, tourism, and other water related activities. Clearer identification of sites would help disperse demand, reduce congestion, and alleviate resulting user conflicts at the highly frequented sites. The county should seek financial assistance through the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Fund Act or State-Administered Recreational Boating Facilities Program for new or improved boat access projects.

Designated Canoe Routes

Canoeing is a popular recreational activity in the Oneida County area. The survey showed that nearly 60% of respondents participated in canoeing activity in the past 12 months. Oneida County should respond to the increasing interest in canoeing activity by providing designated canoe routes along major waterways. The following items should be considered in the development of a canoe route system:

1. Adequate access areas on designated rivers.
2. Portage facilities provided where necessary.
3. Signage along the routes to inform canoeists of direction, length, and available facilities.
4. Rest and stopover areas.
5. A guidebook identifying interesting features, historical sites, and other pertinent information.
6. Potential cooperation and coordination with the towns and city.

Wisconsin River and Flowages

The county should evaluate the needs and usage of the Wisconsin River and adjacent flowages. Ensure water quality in the river and flowages to promote a high quality of life for residents and visitors of the County. The County should begin efforts to preserve and appropriately develop the Wisconsin River Corridor. This should be a cooperative effort between the County, City, and Towns to maintain the quality of this corridor for public recreation and enhancement of water quality.

Trail Development

The County already has a good outdoor recreational trails system, however there are some improvements that have not been fully addressed. The following areas items could be considered for upgrading or expansion possibilities.

Multi-use Trail Development

According to the State-wide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, trail usage is expected to grow over the next five years. Trail activities including mountain biking, ATV, snowmobiling, and horseback riding are all expected to increase in participation, bringing with it an increase in user conflicts. The County should take steps to resolve this issue and develop a multi-use trail system that maximizes recreational opportunities throughout the county. The following is an initial list of steps for consideration:

1. Re-evaluate County policies on the multiple use concepts throughout the network of trails.
2. Continue to develop multiple use facilities for horses, bikes, and ATVs; include sanitary facilities and a shelter.

Oneida County Pedestrian and Bicycle Corridors Plan, 2002

In 2002, NCWRPC prepared a county-wide pedestrian and bicycle corridor plan for the Healthy Oneida County Initiative and the Oneida County Health Department. The plan is intended to guide the development of pedestrian and bicycle facilities in Oneida County within the framework of the County's overall transportation system. If implemented, the plan would result in an increase in the number of miles of walking and biking trails/routes in the County. The potential benefits of this network include: an inexpensive and environmentally safe transportation alternative for residents, a social and recreational activity that enhances quality of life, a boon to the local economy via tourism, and promotion of health and fitness. The executive summary of this plan and associated map may be found in Appendix A of this plan. To obtain a full copy of this plan, please contact the North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission Staff at (715) 849-5510; 210 McClellan St., Suite 210, Wausau, WI 54403; staff@ncwrpc.org.

Other Trail Activities

The following list of trail recommendations addresses a variety of "other" activities within Oneida County:

Develop Bike Trails using abandoned railroad rights-of-way where the opportunity still exists.

Develop commuter trails in and around Rhinelander and other populated areas.

Develop signed and mapped Scenic Road Routes with points of interest.

Develop new and/or improve existing Nature Interpretive Trails with signage, maps, and guides.

Designate specific logging roads and fire lanes in the county forests as horseback riding trails.

Develop a major destination cross-country ski area near Rhinelander (similar to Winter Park).

Develop at least one lighted ski trail loop near Rhinelander possibly at the golf course.

Develop two specific snowmobile trail segments: a route through Woodruff to connect Lake Minocqua with the northern trails, and an access into the City of Rhinelander.

Facility Accessibility Compliance

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 requires that "reasonable accommodation" be made to the needs of disabled persons in all places open to the public. This means all public and private goods and service providers and employers must remove all structural and communication barriers from facilities, or provide alternative access where feasible. The ADA has developed guidelines for all public structures such as restrooms, information centers, and other buildings. In 1988, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources published the "Handbook for Accessibility...a reference manual to help develop outdoor recreation areas to include people with disabilities". This book summarizes many pertinent laws, regulations, and accepted standards for a variety of facilities to help guide the reader in finding information on accessibility questions. The accessibility of all amenities such as restrooms, pathways, and parking needs to be closely evaluated to assure that all people will receive the same opportunities. Overall, play equipment and outdoor recreation activities can be enjoyed by everyone if better access is provided. Not every piece of play equipment needs to be accessible, but at least one of each type is recommended. For example, when several swings are provided, at least one swing should be designed for use by a disabled person.

Part VII – Community Plans

Introduction

This Part of the plan details the recreational needs of the City of Rhinelander and the Towns of Oneida County as well as recommendations concerning potential recreational development projects for each. In those cases where a community has already developed its own community recreation plan, these basic content of these plans are referenced and included as appropriate. Otherwise, the information contained herein is based upon responses from each municipality with respect to outdoor recreation development activities. Each municipality was contacted by regular mail, email, and by phone over the course of several months. In some cases, municipalities chose not respond to inquiries and therefore the content of the plan remains unchanged from the previous plan as it pertains to that particular municipality. Municipalities that provided no response were: Cassian, Little Rice, Lynne, Nokomis, Pelican, Piehl, Pine Lake, Stella, Three Lakes, and Woodruff.

City of Rhinelander

Rhinelander has a municipal Outdoor Recreation Plan. Rhinelander is the largest incorporated area in the "Lakes Region" of northern Wisconsin. It is the only city in Oneida County and features the highest population of any of the municipalities. The city is located in the south-central portion of Oneida County. First called Pelican Rapids, the community was settled in the days of the logging boom in the 1880's. The Wisconsin River provided a convenient energy source for the establishment of the Rhinelander Paper Company. The Wisconsin River runs through the heart of the city and a dam at the Rhinelander Paper Company forms Boom Lake. The Pelican River also joins the Wisconsin River along the southern city limits.

Today, Rhinelander serves as the county seat and a hub for government, business, and industry for the rural areas around it. The City's economic base is primarily tourism, industry, and forestry. State Highways 8, 17, and 47 serve as major arteries for travel and commerce and the Oneida County Airport also provides commercial travel opportunities. Manufacturing, retail, and health care provide the highest levels of employment in the City. Nicolet Technical College is also located just outside of the city limits on scenic Lake Julia.

The population of Rhinelander has remained relatively stable, declining only slightly in the past twenty years. The population in 1980 was 7,873, while the 2000 census indicated a population of 7,735, a decrease of only 1.75%. This stability may indicate little change in the demand for recreational resources, however, the populations of the nearby Towns of Stella, Crescent, and Newbold have increased significantly in the last twenty years and may have put additional burden upon the City's recreational facilities. In addition to year-round residents, the City also serves a significant number of visitors to the Northwoods region. The Rhinelander School District also provides education for the majority of the youth in the surrounding towns. The School District provides a variety of both indoor and outdoor recreational facilities, which complement the facilities maintained by the city.

Rhineland Outdoor Recreational Facilities

Rhineland features a wide variety of outdoor recreation facilities and programs in convenient locations throughout the city. The city's indoor and outdoor recreation programs for youth and adults are currently handled by the YMCA. The Parks, Buildings & Grounds Director maintains the grounds and the ball fields while the YMCA, schools, and leagues organize other recreational activities. Municipal budget constraints in recent years have required the City to look for cooperative projects with area service clubs, youth and adult recreation groups, the School District, the Rhineland Downtown Development Association and other interested individuals and organizations.

In addition to the city park facilities, the Rhineland School District provides neighborhood playgrounds and other important recreational facilities. James Williams Junior High School is located adjacent to the Rhineland Senior High School facility. Together these properties include four soccer practice fields, a softball diamond and additional softball backstop, ten tennis courts with fencing and wind screening, two football practice fields, a football stadium, and three basketball courts with fencing. Individual elementary schools also feature playground and ball field areas. West School has playground equipment located next to the school building, but also utilizes West Side Park as contiguous property. Central School includes playground equipment, two basketball hoops, one funnel ball hoop, a softball backstop, and two sets of soccer goal posts. South Park School also has playground equipment and two basketball standards. Crescent Elementary School (located outside of the city limits) features playground equipment, a basketball court with fence backstops, two tetherball poles, four ball field backstops, and one funnel ball standard. The school administration building, formerly known as Curran School, also has playground apparatus available for public use.

The Rhineland Ice Association provides a facility for indoor hockey, figure skating, and public use ice skating. This indoor facility complements the outdoor skating rinks provided by the City parks. State and club-funded snowmobile trails link Rhineland with the rest of Oneida County and the Tomahawk area. These trails are coordinated through the Oneida County Snowmobile Trails Council. Golfers within the City may utilize either the public eighteen-hole Northwoods Golf Course or the private nine-hole course at the Rhineland Country Club located along Boom Lake.

Hodag Park

Facilities:

- John T. Stafford Babe Ruth Field – new fencing, backstop, new scoreboard, new dugouts, lighting, restrooms/concession building, large maintenance/concession building, new warning track, ball field lighting improvements
- Huber Little League Field – with new fencing, new scoreboard, backstops, new dugouts, 4 sets of bleachers, new warning track
- Little League/Softball Field – new fencing, backstop, scoring booth, new scoreboard, new dugouts, 5 sets of bleachers, new warning track
- Picnic shelter with tables & grills, rest benches, and ADA accessible path
- New playground equipment

- Restroom facility - wheelchair accessible; fishing pier and paved path - wheelchair accessible
- Boat landing - for five boats, with three launching piers, large paved parking lot
- Water ski show - lighting, storage/concession building, 5 sets of bleachers, ski jump
- Tennis court with back stop fencing
- 2 sand volleyball courts
- Swimming beach - swimming pier, changing/restroom facility with new ADA accessibility.

Analysis:

Hodag Park is the largest of the city's park facilities with approximately 34 acres developed. This is a highly scenic area with an extensive view of Boom Lake with shoreline access. This park is also among the most heavily used facilities. The boat launch is considered one of the most frequently used landings in the Northwoods. Many ball league games are played at this park. Visitors and residents are attracted to the beach area and the water ski shows. It is also a popular picnic ground for family gatherings and other activities. This park will continue to be a key component for Rhinelander's outdoor recreation facilities.

Scheduled Improvements:

- New Backstop in 2004 costing \$15,000.

West Side Park

Facilities:

- Lighted ball field - with four sets of bleachers, scorer booth, dugouts, and storage room
- Lighted women's slow pitch ball field - dugouts, storage shed, five sets of bleachers
- New playground equipment
- Restroom/shelter building with ADA accessibility
- Picnic tables & grills
- Three tennis courts
- BMX Track with fencing.

Analysis:

West Side Park is an important facility primarily serving the needs of local residents living west of the Wisconsin River. The facility encompasses about 17 acres and lies adjacent to West Elementary School. The park is heavily used for youth and adult ball leagues and other youth recreation programs. It is also often used for family picnics and other events.

Scheduled Improvements:

- New ADA accessible picnic shelter in 2005 costing \$15,000
- Ball field fencing upgrade in 2005 costing \$12,000
- Power and lighting upgrade in 2005 costing \$3,000

Sarocka Field

Facilities:

- Sledding hill
- Tennis court with backstop fencing
- Softball diamond with backstop, dugouts
- New playground equipment
- Picnic tables

Analysis:

This small community park lies below a steep hillside, which is popular for winter sledding and tubing. The park primarily serves as a neighborhood playground for local youth. The old high/junior high school building is located adjacent to the park above the hill. Parking is currently only available on the nearby streets.

Scheduled Improvements:

Table 20 provides a summary of scheduled improvements for Sarocka Field:

Table 20: Sarocka Field Scheduled Improvements

Improvement	2004 (\$)	2005 (\$)	2006 (\$)	2007 (\$)	2008 (\$)
Repair sidewalk and steps to hilltop		5,000			
Construct restroom to meet ADA requirements incl./water & sewer			25,000		
Update lighting/security lighting			1,000		
Construct picnic shelter and ADA path				12,000	
Totals	0	5,000	26,000	12,000	0

Pioneer Park Facilities

Facilities:

- Home of logging museum, railroad depot museum, fire vehicle barn, new security system, CCC museum and old school museum
- Two newly paved tennis courts with fencing on three sides, and lighting
- Virgil Hoffhein Softball Field - backstop, fencing, lighting, bleachers, dugouts, concession stand, scorekeeper stand and scoreboard
- Restroom/Ice skating warming room
- Three picnic shelters, picnic area with tables and grills
- New playground equipment
- Second restroom
- Six horseshoe pits and benches
- Hockey rink

Analysis:

Pioneer Park features both indoor and outdoor recreation opportunities with a collection of mini-museums focusing on different aspects of Rhinelander's rich history. The museum facilities are open from mid-May through mid-September each year. Over 17,000 visitors toured the museums in the 1993 summer season. Coupled with the museum opportunities are the many outdoor recreation facilities in the adjacent park area. Pioneer Park includes roughly 19 acres. Like Shepard Park, this area borders the Pelican River. The park serves both tourists and local residents alike for picnicking, use of playground apparatus, tennis courts, and horseshoe pits. The ball field is used for adult and youth ball leagues, and a hockey/ice skating rink with a warming shelter is maintained during the winter.

Scheduled Improvements:

Table 21 provides a summary of scheduled improvements for Pioneer Park:

Table 21: Pioneer Park Scheduled Improvements

Improvement	2004 (\$)	2005 (\$)	2006 (\$)	2007 (\$)	2008 (\$)
Add outboard motor exhibit for antique; building	5,000				
Upgrade second restroom to meet ADA requirements		2,500			
Ball field/ice rink fencing		10,000			
Construct ADA path to picnic shelter		2,000			
Upgrade bleachers		3,000			
Develop property along Pelican River to include scenic walkway and canoe launching area				2,000	
Totals	5,000	17,500	0	2,000	0

Shepard Park Wayside Facilities***Facilities:***

- Restroom and drinking fountain
- Picnic tables and grills
- Playground equipment

Analysis:

Shepard Park primarily serves as a wayside facility for visitors entering Rhinelander from the south along Highway 17. It provides a nice "visual entrance" to the city. It is a small facility with about four acres of total land area. The Pelican River runs along the far side of the park, although access is very limited. The park borders the city sewage treatment facility.

Scheduled Improvements:

- Upgrade restroom to meet ADA requirements in 2005 at cost of \$2,500

- Develop property along Pelican River to include scenic walkway and canoe launching area in 2006 at cost of \$5,000

Rhinelanders Northwood Golf Course/Cross-Country Ski Trail

Facilities:

- Eighteen hole golf course
- Clubhouse with improved restroom facilities, bar and grill, locker room, storage room, pro shop and serve as warming house for winter activities
- A 40' X 120' maintenance building
- Two log-type outdoor toilets along the course
- Tubing hill in winter
- Groomed cross-country ski trails in winter - one set diagonal stride only and one set skating and diagonal stride

Analysis:

This newer, city-owned and managed golf course is a popular addition to the outdoor recreation facilities of the area. The high summer use is complemented with winter use as a cross-country skiing and tubing facility. New ski trail grooming equipment purchased by the local ski club will enable better grooming of the existing and potential new trails.

Scheduled Improvements:

There are no scheduled improvements other than general maintenance for the next five years.

Other Community Recreation Projects

A variety of other outdoor recreation opportunities have been identified as potential projects for development in the Rhinelanders area by local citizens, government officials, and youth and adult recreation organizations. In the past five years, Rhinelanders has constructed a skateboard park, acquired green space adjacent to First Financial bank building, upgraded a park/boat landing on the west side of Wisconsin River, and construction of a Community Multi-Purpose Recreation Center with swimming pool.

Hanson Lake Area:

The soccer organization is in the process of developing a recreation complex on the edge of the City near the airport. The plans for the complex include seven soccer fields, The complex will include restroom facilities (with sanitary sewer and water services), concession stand, walkways, lighting, parking, storm water management, fencing, an equipment storage shed, potential roadway upgrades, a rustic trail network near Hanson Lake, and picnic areas near Hanson Lake. The complex will serve the recreational needs of Rhinelanders residents, but also those of the outlying areas. The possibilities for cooperation between the City, Oneida County, surrounding municipalities and local groups and organizations are substantial. Many private citizens and interest groups have pledged their support for this complex with voluntary support.

The City of Rhinelanders has also purchased 16.06 acres of land with 428.65 feet of lake frontage on Hanson Lake just north of the sports complex area. The City would like to develop this land for passive recreational activities such as, hiking, cross country ski trails, picnic areas, shore

fishing access, canoe launch area, and nature observation. This passive area will be complimentary to the sports field complex that the City proposes to develop on the 50-acre parcel across River Road to the south. The long-term goal is to connect the lake parcel by trail with Oneida County's Townline Park, approximately 3/4 of a mile to the north of this parcel.

Continued Projects:

1. Develop a river walk park area including multipurpose trail, accessible fishing pier, canoe launching area and possibly a designated rollerblade trail/area.
2. Talk to Darrel Bike/hike trails - develop a series of trail routes linking downtown Rhinelander with parks, Nicolet College and surrounding area (utilize old RR beds where feasible, waterfront trails where possible). Designate and sign bicycle road routes/mountain bike trails.
3. Develop/improve canoe portage/landings for Pelican and Wisconsin Rivers (Phillip Street, Sutliff Avenue and downstream), designating canoe routes with maps/guides.
4. Possible development of Wisconsin River/Pelican River museum.
5. Conduct outdoor education/nature programs at interpretive trails (Ced Vig Outdoor Classroom, other areas).
6. Develop "Watchable Wildlife" viewing areas.
7. Install shuffleboard courts at one of the park facilities.

Rhineland Area Pathways Project (Rapp), 2003

This plan is intended to guide the development of bicycle and pedestrian facilities for the City of Rhinelander within the context of the greater urban area. The vision of this plan is to increase the mobility of people in the Rhinelander area by making bicycling and walking viable and attractive transportation choices. The plan also embraces other types of non-motorized travel modes such as wheel chairs or roller blades so that the system is accessible to all residents. The corridors or pathways recommended within the plan connect people to destinations such as employment centers, schools, residential districts, recreation areas and commercial retail areas (downtown and surrounding shopping areas). This plan also incorporates interconnection with neighboring towns, various destinations outside of the city, and the planned Oneida County Trail System from the Oneida County Pedestrian and Bicycle Corridors Plan of 2002. Appendix B of this plan provides the vision statement and purpose of the RAPP. To obtain a full copy of this plan, please contact the North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission Staff at (715) 849-5510; 210 McClellan St., Suite 210, Wausau, WI 54403; staff@ncwrpc.org.

Town of Cassian

Cassian has its own municipal Outdoor Recreation Plan. The Town of Cassian is located in the west-central part of Oneida County, almost equidistant from Minocqua, Rhinelander, and Tomahawk. Most Cassian residents commute to these three communities. There are very few non-tourist businesses in Cassian. Large tracts of land in the Town of Cassian are owned by the commercial forest industry and Oneida County while smaller areas are owned by State and Federal Government. Most Cassian residents live in the middle region of the Town. There are 43,528 acres in Cassian and approximately two-thirds of the landowners are seasonal residents. According to the Census, there were 585 residents in Cassian in 1980 and 962 in 2000. This is an overall increase of 64.4%, which is among the highest rates of increase among Towns in Oneida County for this period. Only Woodboro and Hazelhurst, which adjoin Cassian, had higher population increases. The overall County population increased by 17.81%.

Existing Recreational Activities and Facilities

The Four States Timber Venture land, as well as the County, State and Federal land is all utilized by hunters. Other recreational opportunities include Bearskin Trail, which is used by hikers, bikers, and snowmobilers. The 15 mile 2-way Cassian Ski Trail runs from Hwy K to north of Alva Lake and is used by many residents and non residents. This ski trail is a few miles from the Washburn Lake Ski Trail. There are wildlife viewing areas off of both Swamp Lake Road and CTH Y. Recreational opportunities through private business include a trap range, seven resorts or cottage rentals, one motel, one golf course with a skiing and tubing hill, mountain biking, and condo rentals for private usage. There are also rental facilities to house recreational equipment in the Town.

Public Access

The town of Cassian owns and maintains boat accesses on Timber Lake, Spruce Lake, and Goodyear Lake. All the boat access areas are located on County Forest property. The State of Wisconsin owns and maintains boat accesses to Long Lake and Big Bearskin Lake.

The Town also owns land on the following lakes and streams:

- Bearskin Creek – walk-in access
- Rocky Run Creek – walk-in access
- Hodag Lake – walk-in access
- Tomahawk River - 1 site with walk-in access in poor condition. This site is used as a canoe launching site. A "take-out" site is located at the Swamp Lake Road bridge (private).
- Little Bearskin Lake - existing landing in good condition.
- Currie Lake – walk-in access
- Heiress Lake – walk-in access
- Birch Lake – walk-in access
- Sand Lake - swimming beach and walk-in access
- West Horsehead Lake - 2 sites, one has landing that needs major repairs and improved parking.
- East Horsehead Lake - has an existing landing that needs minor repairs

Other Facilities

The Towns recreational opportunities mainly serve the hunting, fishing, hiking, biking, skiing, and snowmobiling recreationalists. In addition to these activities, other facilities are available throughout the Town. The Cassian - Woodboro School has a soccer field and baseball diamond, outdoor basketball court, and a playground area. The school also has an indoor gym that is used for school activities. The Sand Lake beach is used by residents and non-residents alike for swimming, sunbathing, and picnicking. The Lutheran Church has installed play ground equipment in 1995 that is utilized by many local residents. Handicap accessible bathrooms with holding tanks need to be added.

Scheduled Improvements:

The Town has plans to construct a pavillion/shelter with picnic tables on the existing Town owned property.

Sand Lake Beach

Scheduled Improvements:

- Handicap accessible bathrooms with holding tanks need to be added.
- 12' X 28' block handicap accessible changing rooms need to be constructed.
- Handicap access to the beach needs to be added. This should include designated surfaced parking areas as well as surfaced beach access paths.
- Establish a designated picnic area with cement tables and speed limit signs on Sand Lake Road.

West Horsehead Lake Landing

Scheduled Improvements:

- Widen existing road leading to launching area to park cars and trailers.
- New dock and ramp for site.

Tomahawk River Canoe Access Trail Improvement

Scheduled Improvements:

- Possibly establish a parking area for this site.
- Improve surfacing and solve erosion problems on trails.

Town of Crescent

The Town of Crescent has developed very little in recreational facilities. There is one boat access on the south shore of Squash Lake with a recently updated parking area.

Scheduled Improvements:

- Cooperation with County for potential bike paths and ATV trails.

Town of Enterprise

The Town of Enterprise has a limited recreational resource base consisting of a Town Community Building with picnic tables, a ball diamond, and a boat access on the west end of Pelican Lake called Keeler Landing. In addition, the State of Wisconsin has a landing and pier.

Scheduled Improvements:

- Add an ADA accessible fishing pier at Keeler Landing in 2007 for \$10,500
- Construct ball diamond in 2008 for \$20,000
- Explore creation of a bike trail

Town of Hazelhurst

Hazelhurst has its own municipal Outdoor Recreation Plan. The Town of Hazelhurst is located in the northwestern part of Oneida County, approximately 60 miles north of Wausau. State Highway 51 passes directly through Hazelhurst. And is heavily traveled by vacationers in both summer and winter. The Town is also accessible via County Trunks D and Y. County Highway D is also a route used by a large number of residents working in Rhinelander. The topography of Hazelhurst is made up of large tracts of heavily wooded areas and many sparkling, clear lakes. The Town has grown rapidly, and there is very little lake frontage that has not been developed with summer homes. As a result, many people are now building homes in more rural, wooded settings.

The Town of Hazelhurst has been showing a steady growth of both year-round and summer home residents. The 1980 Census estimated Hazelhurst at 780 persons; in 2000 the Town increased to 1,267. This 62.4% increase coupled with seasonal population increases put considerable strain on the Town's recreational facilities. Hazelhurst appears to be an attractive retirement option for many people, so there may be additional demand for recreational opportunities for this population segment as well.

Recreational Facilities

Hazelhurst Ballpark

The Hazelhurst Ballpark provides for a good share of the recreational activity in the Town. The original park and existing Town Hall were both donated to the community by the Yawkey family. In the late 1890s, the Yawkey family operated a lumber mill and was instrumental in developing the area. The park provides a variety of activities for all age groups: playground equipment, a lighted baseball diamond (used by Little League and men's and women's baseball leagues during the summer), basketball, tournaments, the Lions Club flea market fundraiser, training for the volunteer Fire Department, tennis court and two horseshoe pits. The park and Town Hall are both used by families and other organizations for club meetings, luncheons, weddings, funerals, celebrations, square dancing, and many other activities. Facilities include wheelchair accessible rest rooms, picnic tables, and food booth. The park is in constant use and provides diversified recreation for the town.

Scheduled Improvements:

- Add tennis court lighting in 2005 for \$20,000
- Replace fencing in 2007 for \$8,000

Lake Katherine Beach Park

The Lake Katherine Beach Park is located on the shore of Lake Katherine, which is one of the clearest and most picturesque lakes in the area. The lake provides excellent Walleye and Musky fishing and an excellent swimming beach. Locals and visitors used the park for fishing, boating, water skiing, swimming, scuba diving, sunbathing and picnicking. The Lions Club uses the park for a winter softball tournament on the ice. The park also has an excellent boat launching facility that is heavily used during the summer to provide access to many other area lakes through the channel between Lake Katherine and Lake Tomahawk. Additional features include: a pier,

swimming area with raft, playground equipment, picnic tables, grills, dry hydrant, restroom facilities, changing building, volleyball pit, and a large paved parking lot. The present beach area which includes the adjacent property acquired in 1989 is 254' x 329' in area. The land purchase has enabled the Town to expand the swimming and picnic areas.

Scheduled Improvements:

- Repair docks in 2005 for \$600

Canal

The lumber companies originally used the channel between Lake Katherine and Lake Tomahawk to move logs between the two lakes, but due to unequal water elevations, this did not work well. In 1936-37, a WPA project built the canal as it stands today. Since that time, it has been used for water transportation with a lift at one end, although the lift is no longer operational due to deterioration. In 1990-91, the Town had the dam re-engineered and improved the spillways. The canal does have historical value as a reminder of the founding lumber companies and recreational value for water traffic.

Scheduled Improvements:

- Add riprap to canal in 2005 for \$2,500
- Repair docks in 2005 for \$1,000

Bike Trails

The Bearskin State Bike Trail runs north to south through the town and is a major attraction. There are also two new bike trails connecting to Highway 51: one on Oneida Street and the other along Lee Road.

Scheduled Improvements:

- Continuation and expansion of the trail by the state toward Tomahawk.
- Explore adding bicycle route signage on public roads to help children reach Minocqua-Hazelhurst-Lake Tomahawk School

McCormick Lake Landing

The Town maintains a small boat landing on McCormick Lake that is primarily used by lake residents. Directional signage is limited. A small launching pier and a pit toilet are maintained by the lake association.

Scheduled Improvements:

- Regravel landing in 2004 for \$675

Town of Lake Tomahawk

The Town of Lake Tomahawk has its own municipal Outdoor Recreation Plan and its own Park Commission. Lake Tomahawk is located in the north-central part of Oneida County. The Lake Tomahawk business district and local government center is located by the intersection of Hwy. 47 and County D. The town features numerous high quality lakes, including Tomahawk, Sunflower and Little Tomahawk which all connect through Mid Lake to Minocqua Lake to form a major chain. Lake front permanent and seasonal homes and resorts are common. The eastern boundary of the town also follows the Wisconsin River as it flows from the Rainbow Flowage south toward Rhinelander. Much of the town is state-owned forest land managed by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources as part of the Northern Highland - American Legion State Forest.

The Census estimates the 2000 Town population at 1,160 residents, up 57.18% from the 1980 census count of 738. Lake Tomahawk is heavily influenced by seasonal population changes as tourists and seasonal residents join the year-round population. Lake Tomahawk lies between Rhinelander and the Minocqua/Woodruff area along Hwy. 47, which is an important community link for both visitors and commuters. Town youth attend school at either Minocqua-Hazelhurst-Lake Tomahawk Elementary (K-8) or Lakeland Union High School (9-12). Both schools are located in Minocqua.

Recreational Facilities

The town's outdoor recreational facilities are complemented by facilities in the Northern Highland - American Legion State Forest. DNR facilities within the town include campgrounds, groomed cross-country ski trails, a nature interpretive trail, and numerous boat landings. The Wisconsin Valley Improvement Company also maintains boat landings and a river access at the nearby Rainbow Flowage. County snowmobile trail routes also cross in numerous places throughout the Town. Supervised youth league activities include summer baseball and winter hockey activities. Adult softball leagues are also coordinated. A major attraction for tourists is Lake Tomahawk's summer snowshoe baseball activities. The Park Commission maintains four parks within or near the town center.

Rainbow Park

Facilities:

Ball diamond with fencing, dugout and bleachers with lighting; picnic area; accessible restrooms; parking lot; storage shed.

Analysis:

This park is located south of the Town center at the intersection of west County D and Hwy. 47. In addition to heavy use of the ball diamond during the summer, the park also hosts winter snowshoe games. Increased demand for ball leagues and the potential for long-term development of the Town center continues to enhance the usage of this park.

Scheduled Improvements:

- Continue development of the picnic area by providing top fill, seeding the area, and installing grills.
- Install a drinking water well.
- Blacktop the parking lot and increase its size.
- Construct a concession stand/storage shed near the ball diamond.
- Pursue further development/recognition of the Old Military Road through the park. Post a historic plaque, brush and expand a nature trail loop.
- Install a swing set and additional playground equipment.
- Develop tennis courts with fencing and lighting.

Snowshoe Park***Facilities:***

Large picnic shelter with concession and food area; new public restroom facility, a collection of playground equipment; basketball hoop; lighted ball diamond with fencing, bleachers, announcer stand/scoring booth; ice-skating rink with warming house/storage shed, and lighting system.

Analysis:

Snowshoe Park is located on Choate Blvd. and Main St. in downtown Lake Tomahawk. It sits just one block west of Hwy. 47, between the community building and the DNR Ranger Station. The park hosts the summer snowshoe baseball games on sawdust, as well as ice skating in winter.

Scheduled Improvements:

- Install new screening for the concession stand/shelter sides and windows.
- Provide a source of drinking water.
- Provide additional fencing for ball field.

Lake Tomahawk Park***Facilities:***

Picnic area with 11 tables and 4 grills; swimming beach with launching pier, map board, sign for launch fees, collection box; paved parking; security lights; and public restroom.

Analysis:

This park is very scenic and has vehicle access from both the town center and off of Hwy. 47. The boat landing is a very popular access to Tomahawk Lake and the lake chain.

Scheduled Improvements:

- Install electric and lighting for the restroom facility
- Install a drinking water well
- Redevelop a nature trail around the wetland area
- Construct playground equipment by the picnic area

- Expand the paved parking area
- Blacktop a path from the highway parking area to the restroom for wheelchair accessibility
- Develop an overnight parking/camping area
- Develop a wheelchair-accessible fishing pier with accessible pathway
- Develop a sand volleyball court
- New boat launch pads on both sides of pier
- New piers

Bearfoot Park

Facilities:

Pull-off graveled parking area from the highway; picnic tables and grills; a slide/swing set playground equipment unit.

Analysis:

Bearfoot Park is located on Hwy. 47 on the south end of the town center on the east side of the road. The land runs approximately 275 feet along the highway and is 100 feet deep to the old railroad bed. The old railroad bed is a popular snowmobile trail providing access to the town. The community Christmas tree is also located in this park each winter.

Scheduled Improvements:

- Blacktop the parking area
- Plant screening vegetation and develop other landscaping, including filling where needed
- Install a drinking water source
- Develop restroom facilities (perhaps winterized for use by snowmobilers)

Other Outdoor Recreation Opportunities:

Scheduled Improvements:

- Replace the launching/fishing dock at the Little Carr Lake boat landing
- Investigate developing the old railroad bed (currently used for a snowmobile trail) for use as a hike/bike trail
- Repair or replace the snowmobile bridge between North and South Two Lakes for use as a hike/bike trail
- Develop a series of bicycle road routes including a map and signage. Consider a potential link with bicycle road routes being considered in the Town of Newbold including using the River Road bridge
- Improve the launching/fishing pier and parking area for the Hawk Lake boat landing
- Upgrade the boat landing site at Horsehead Lake. Consider removal of rocks and wood at the landing, upgrading the launching pier, and expanding the parking lot while controlling overflow parking along the road with signed "no parking" areas

Town of Little Rice

The Town of Little Rice currently has no land designated for public parks or recreational development. There are no scheduled recreational improvements for the period 2004 to 2008.

Town of Lynne

The Town of Lynne currently maintains a park area adjacent to the Town Hall that includes a lighted basketball court, a ball diamond, and a picnic pavilion. Next to the park, by a local sports club operates a trap shooting range and a local ATV trail. The town also maintains a boat access on Pier Lake.

Scheduled Improvements:

- Maintain and up-grade the existing park facilities.
- maintain and up-grade the trap shooting range.
- maintain and up-grade the ATV Trails.

Town of Minocqua

The Town of Minocqua currently has its own Outdoor Recreation Plan. Minocqua is located in the northwest section of Oneida County in a forested area of many lakes. It is a premier destination for tourists and permanent residential development. Over the past decade, retail and commercial development has greatly accelerated the economic structure of the municipality.

The town has experienced some of the most significant growth in Oneida County. Minocqua's population has more than doubled since 1970. The 1980 Census estimated 3,328 persons in the Town and by 2000 this population had increased by 46.0% to 4,859 (estimated to be 5,029 in 2003). The impact of visitors and seasonal homeowners is quite extreme as well. Most of this impact occurs during the sunny summer months and the snowy winter months and places an increased demand on the Town's outdoor recreational amenities.

Recreational Facilities

The Town has several municipal recreation areas in addition to the facilities provided by the M-H-LT school system, LUHS school system, Lakeland Ice Association, and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest). Many private resorts, lodges and camps provide a wide array of facilities for their guests. The Town of Minocqua maintains eight facilities.

Torpy Beach and Park - Acreage

Facilities:

Beach, changing rooms, showers, restrooms, band stand, concession, picnic shelters, grills and tables, tennis courts, playground apparatus, and volleyball, defined parking area, stone paved paths, horseshoe pit, ice skating rink during the winter months and warming area.

Analysis:

This is a heavily used park located on the "Island" between Minocqua Lake and U.S. Highway 51 and just north of the major business area. The majority of users are from outside the Lakeland area.

Scheduled Improvements:

- Rebuild picnic shelters in 2004 for \$4,000
- Add additional shade trees in 2005 for \$1,800
- Replace and upgrade playground equipment in 2006 for \$30,000
- Replacement of the swimming pier in 2004
- Upgrade drainage system in the parking and playground area in 2004
- Landscape enhancements in 2005
- Add additional grills in 2005

Dorwin Park

When the Minocqua Museum was relocated to the Dorwin Park property, the park area was downsized. Even so, the museum was carefully positioned so that the existing shelter, benches,

planters, and walkways were undisturbed. The result is a useful downtown park that is enhanced by the museum.

Facilities:

Dorwin Park provides green space, landscaping, a sun/rain shelter, benches, and pathways.

Analysis:

This is a vest-pocket park located on the "Island" at the western edge of the business district. Downtown shoppers use this as a rest area. Little additional development is anticipated in this park in the near future.

Scheduled Improvements:

- Landscaping in 2004 for \$2,000

Minocqua Ball Park

Facilities:

Baseball field, volleyball courts, lights, restrooms, playground apparatus, and parking area.

Analysis:

This is primarily a ball field used heavily by youth baseball leagues, adult softball leagues, and individuals. This recreation area receives more local use than any other facility with the possible exception of the Minocqua Winter Park. This recreation area is adjacent to U.S. Highway 51 and just south of the "Island". Remodeling restrooms to make them ADA accessible is the only scheduled improvement for the 2004-2008 period.

Minocqua Winter Park and Nordic Center

Facilities:

This large complex is a downhill skiing facility on 40 acres owned by the Town with an additional 1,200 acres leased from private landowners. It has 60 kilometers of top-notch cross-country ski trails groomed and tracked for both the skating and diagonal stride techniques. The facilities include a heated chalet with restrooms, concession, lighted trails, two ski jumps, equipment rental and sales, waxing room, and parking. Also there is storage space for grooming equipment and a trail shelter.

Analysis:

This facility has become recognized as one of the finest cross-country skiing destinations in Wisconsin, the Midwest, and nationally. Rentals, ski lessons, citizen races, youth leagues, Silent Sports magazine's ski "Demo Days," and many other activities are sponsored at Winter Park.

Scheduled Improvements:

- Expand parking
- Continue to expand the trail system
- Construct additional trail shelters and benches

Fishing Pier

The Town of Minocqua and the WisDNR jointly maintain an extensive, lighted, handicapped accessible fishing pier. The pier is adjacent to U.S. Highway 51 and was formerly used as a bridge for that highway. The pier is well used by the public and has public parking, treated hand railings with slots for wheelchair accessible fishing, and a section of decking that is wheelchair friendly.

Scheduled Improvements:

- Provide more picnic tables in 2004 for \$300
- Re-stain existing railing in 2004 for \$500

Public Accesses

There are several public accesses/landings maintained by the Town of Minocqua. Three accesses to Lake Minocqua are located on the "Island"; others include Bear Lake, Squirrel Lake, Swamsauger Lake, Squaw Lake, Buckskin Lake, Thoroughfare Channel, and many other undeveloped accesses.

Scheduled Improvements:

- Periodic replacement of all launching ramp pads
- Expand the parking area at Thoroughfare Landing

Cedar Park

This half-acre wooded shoreline park is located east of the municipal dock. This park has landscaping, a walkway down the slope to the lake, a picnic table, and pier for fishing and docking. There are no scheduled improvements for the 2004-2008 period.

Bearskin Trailhead Park

Scheduled improvements for this park in the 2004-2008 period include \$62,000 in 2004 for completion of public restrooms, development of a picnic area, and creation of a boat dock and fishing pier.

Snowmobile Trails

There are two active snowmobile clubs in Minocqua. Each club maintains a separate trail system in conjunction with the county. The communication between clubs is good and their trail systems are connected. Combined, these clubs maintain hundreds of miles of trails in the Greater Minocqua Area with more trails being planned.

Hike/Bike Trails

The Town of Minocqua has developed hiking/biking trails that link up with the State Bearskin Trail. These trails have now been linked up with the Town of Woodruff as well. Potential projects include development of a boardwalk along Park Avenue from the Minocqua Community Center to the Bearskin Trail, an extension of a hike/bike trail south to Northern Road, and another extension trail along the west side of US Highway 51 from Lakeview Drive to Woodruff.

Minocqua Gun Club

This facility is located 1.5 miles south of the bridge on Hwy 51 on Gun Club Road. It is a newly remodeled club house that welcomes the public to utilize four trap fields, a skeet range, sporting clays, a wobble trap, and double birds. Since the mid-50s, the club has been responsible for teaching the fundamentals of firearm safety to young shooters.

Other Recreational Facilities

Since 1993, several non-town recreation sites have been developed. The DNR Schlecht Lake Ski Trail has been upgraded for night skiing. Being close to town, this site also sees mountain biking as snow cover disappears. The Lakeland Ice Association opened its indoor ice facility in the fall of 1994. The building has an artificial ice system installed. Winter months see figure skating, public skating, and youth and adult hockey. During non-skating times, the building is used for tennis and rollerblading among other things. Both school gymnasiums are available to winter basketball and volleyball leagues.

Proposed Projects

Multipurpose Recreation Area (Winter Park East)

This park project is proposed for approximately 26 acres of land west of the M-H-LT Grade School and will be a joint effort combining the resources of the school and the Town. Initially, it will be an open-concept park with land to be used for a soccer field and a football field, as well as a large area for physical fitness activities. Future plans would have large group picnic shelters and grills along with playground equipment and restrooms.

Town of Monico

Monico has its own municipal Outdoor Recreation Plan. The Town of Monico is located in the southeast part of Oneida County and contains the intersection of Highways 45 and 8, which provides commuting routes to Rhineland, Three Lakes, Antigo and Crandon. The vast majority of the property in the Town is owned by industrial interests and is open to the public for hiking, cross-country skiing, biking, hunting, fishing, berry picking, and other outdoor activities. Most of the Town's population resides close to or around the three lakes located near the town center - Neptune, Mars and Venus Lakes. Public accesses exist on these lakes and also on the smaller Tank Lake. The Neptune access is a small landing, primarily used for carry-in of small boats and canoes. Access to Tank Lake consists of carry-in access off Kurtz Road. Mars Lake has a larger boat landing with gravel turnaround and parking space. There is public access to Lake Venus for swimming, but no boat access.

The Town has a small resident population, estimated to be 372 in 2003. The population has remained relatively stable during the past 40 years; the 1960 Census estimated 314 persons. Over 1/3 of the housing stock is seasonal homes and this type of development will likely continue in the future.

Recreational Facilities

Beach Development

This facility includes, swim ropes and buoys, picnic tables, grills, a unisex toilet, and benches.

Scheduled Improvements:

- Add riprap at the beach in 2005 for \$10,000

Baseball Park/Pavilion

The baseball field and pavilion are located just north of the town center off of Hwy 45. Local residents use this facility frequently for league games. The pavilion is a large picnic shelter with concession areas electrical hookups, and pit toilets. The ball field includes a backstop, six sets of bleachers, and shelters for the players.

Scheduled Improvements:

- Construct restroom facility in 2006 for \$10,000
- Install scoreboard in 2006 for \$3,000

Mars Lake Boat Landing

Contains launch area and parking lot, newly blacktopped in 2002. There are no scheduled improvements for the 2004-2008 period.

Town Hall Park

This park area is developed immediately adjacent to the Town Hall and shares a paved parking area. A basketball hoop with newly blacktopped court, rest benches, surfaced play area, and

skateboard and playground equipment are also available. There are no scheduled improvements for the 2004-2008 period.

Neptune Lake

The Town has no existing improvements on this lake, however, a scheduled improvement is the installation of a fishing pier during the 2004-2008 period.

Major Proposed Projects

Town Playground Park

Development of a small park within the Town center is scheduled for the 2004-2008 period for the purpose of better serving local children, including land acquisition, landscaping, and installation of playground equipment.

Town of Newbold

Newbold has its own municipal Outdoor Recreation Plan. The Town of Newbold is located in the north-central part of Oneida County. The town extends from the Vilas County border on the north all the way to the edge of Rhinelander to the south. There is no Town center per se, so the Town serves as a “bedroom community”. Residents may travel to Lake Tomahawk, Rhinelander, Minocqua-Woodruff, or Saint Germain for work, as well as for purchasing food and other needs. The town hall is located on Hwy 47 in the southern third of the Town. The Wisconsin River is a dominant feature curving north to south through the Town. The northern section includes the Rainbow Flowage. The Rainbow was formed by the construction of a dam on the Wisconsin River in 1935. The flowage includes 4,165 acres of surface water area managed as a hydropower storage reservoir. Rainbow Flowage is owned and operated by the Wisconsin Valley Improvement Company (WVIC), a unique state-chartered corporation. The water is managed to maintain a more uniform flow on the Wisconsin River. Water is stored behind the reservoir dam during wet periods, then released to supplement downstream flow during dry seasons. Water levels in the flowage therefore fluctuate significantly throughout the year. Newbold also features a variety of individual lakes, so permanent and seasonal lakefront homes and resorts are common. Large blocks of northern forest within the town are owned by the state and are managed as part of the Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest. Paper companies and the WVIC own smaller sections of forest, including some of the land adjoining the Wisconsin River and Rainbow Flowage.

Newbold's estimated 2000 population is 2,710, up from the 1980 census of 2,171 people; a 24.83% increase. With its high number of seasonal homes, the Town is heavily influenced by seasonal population influxes. A 1985 study estimated an average summer seasonal population increase of 2005, nearly doubling the Town's permanent population. This does not include daily visitor traffic.

Recreation Facilities

The Town maintains few recreation facilities at this time, however significant opportunities exist for low-cost projects to be implemented. The Town currently maintains a two-section picnic/cooking shelter and picnic tables near the Town hall as well as an eight mile hiking/bike trail that utilizes both on-road and off-road routes. Newbold Memorial Park provides a canoe landing and fishing area at the wooded bridge on River Road. The Town also maintains a boat landing, a small beach, and parking area on Two Sisters Lake. Both state-funded and club-funded snowmobile trails cross sections of the town. Townline Park, managed by Oneida County, is located in part within the Town of Newbold. There are a series of boat and fishing accesses along the Rainbow Flowage that are owned and maintained by WVIC as a public service, but also privately owned landings as well. The upper stretch of the Wisconsin River (above the Flowage) is intensively used for day canoe trips. The area around Bridge Road (near McNaughton) is commonly used as an access point for watercraft launching, however this access is not developed and parking is limited to the roadside. Other boat accesses exist throughout the Town. State Forest lands are open for hiking, bicycle trail riding, wildlife observation, berry picking, and hunting. The Stone Lake area is managed by the DNR as a hunting trail system. No public campgrounds exist in Newbold, although DNR State Forest campgrounds are located

nearby in the Town of Woodruff. Similarly, Newbold does not have groomed cross-country ski trails, but ski trails are located nearby. The Newbold elementary school property does have playground equipment as well as outdoor basketball and baseball fields. This is used by local youths throughout the year.

Two Sisters Lake/Lake Mildred

- The town should explore the option of acquiring additional property on these lakes or nearby lakes, to relieve the pressure on these two landings and minimize swimmer boater conflicts.
- Heavy use of existing beaches indicates the need for the town to seek and develop of public beach sites on lakes that do not currently have swimming facilities. Additional beach sites will primarily be sought in the more heavily populated southern part of the town.

Trail Development

- Investigate and evaluate ATV trail options. If found to be feasible, these trails should be developed.
- Explore extending existing snowmobile trail routes.
- Investigate and evaluate creating snowshoe trails on existing trails. If found to be feasible, these trails should be developed.
- Investigate, evaluate, and map a horse trail with a parking lot. If found to be feasible, a 2-3 mile trail should be developed.

Bike and Walking Trails

- Extend existing Town trail to Fawn Lake Road and consider a linkage trail to connect to Town Line Park.
- Develop a map/guide and install signage to designate bicycle path routes.
- Investigate and evaluate mountain bike trails. If found to be feasible, these should be developed with a map/guide, signage, and gravel road routes.

Wisconsin River

- Public Landings. Develop one additional public landing on the Wisconsin River near McNaughton. A map and guide booklet or brochure could be developed for designated stretches to serve as a reference for residents and visitors alike.
- Wildlife habitat/Observation areas. The Wisconsin River bends very close to Hwy 47 in places near the Backwaters Bar. The area is very scenic, and could provide excellent opportunities for viewing the many waterfowl and other wildlife that utilize these sections. Investigate the development of a pull-off with an observation deck or platform overlooking the river bend. Improve the signage of the existing landing. Additional opportunities exist for establishing wildlife viewing below and around the Rainbow Flowage. The opportunity to view nesting and feeding bald eagles and osprey in these areas is virtually unmatched anywhere. These could be developed and signed in conjunction with the DNR's "Watchable Wildlife" program, and possibly with the assistance of the Wisconsin Valley Improvement Company.

- Canoe primitive campsites. Explore the opportunities for developing one or more additional canoe campsites, and possibly a group site, along the Wisconsin River below the Rainbow Flowage.

Town of Nokomis

Nokomis has its own municipal Outdoor Recreation Plan. The Town of Nokomis is located in the south-central portion of Oneida County. by County L and Business Hwy 51 are the two major transportation routes through Nokomis with residents most often traveling to Merrill, Wausau, Rhinelander, Tomahawk and the Minocqua area. The Tomahawk River flows from north to south and eventually empties into Lake Nokomis, also known as the Rice River Flowage. There is a considerable amount of property in County and State Forest Land as well as industrial ownership.

The population of Nokomis has increased from 883 individuals in 1980 to 1,363 in 2000; a growth of 54.4%. The Town also serves a large number of seasonal residents and daily visitors.

Recreation Facilities

The Town of Nokomis maintains outdoor recreation facilities primarily at three locations - the Town Hall Park, Nokomis Ball Park, and the County L-Business 51 Wayside Park. These facilities area maintained and managed by the Town Board in cooperation with adult and youth ball leagues. The Town also owns a boat landing on Lake Nokomis off Point O' Pines Road. This is a narrow, 30-foot wide strip that is graveled with a concrete ramp. Besides Town facilities, the Wisconsin Valley Improvement Company (WVIC) maintains boat landings on the Rice Reservoir for public use. The reservoir includes 4,111 acres of fishing and boating opportunities, and 63 miles of scenic shoreline. A boat landing is located off of Highway Y, and a canoe portage is maintained by the reservoir dam. The Rice Reservoir Public Landing & Picnic Area is maintained by WVIC. This small, scenic picnic area with two tables, pit toilets, a paved boat landing and wide concrete launch pad, is located along County trunk N. Three commercial campgrounds are located on the Rice Reservoir, providing additional recreational opportunities. State and club-funded snowmobile trails crisscross the town. These are maintained as part of the County's Snowmobile Trail Council system.

Nokomis Ball Park

Facilities:

- pavilion with concession stand and storage
- four sets of bleachers
- restrooms
- electrical hookups recently installed
- marked trees - species type and who donated the tree
- water pump and hoses for watering the ball fields inside the pumphouse structure
- dusk to dawn security lights
- swing set/slide playground unit
- two fenced-in ball fields with backstops
- sand box
- third ball field, grass area, with back stop
- batting cage and pitching machine
- dugouts for one ball field

- older storage building
- a scoreboard on one ball field
- volleyball court in summer months
- concession stand
- roadside fencing
- electric outlets by ball diamonds

Analysis:

This 40-acre park facility is located about one-half mile north of the Town Hall off Business 51. The site is the main park facility for the community and is heavily used for adult and youth ball leagues. Proposed projects for the 2004-2008 period include the following:

- Installation of a third ball diamond.
- Develop a wheelchair accessible restroom facility (w/ flush toilet and sinks).
- Develop a sand volley ball court.
- Construct an ice-skating rink.
- Install playground equipment.
- Install two horseshoe pits.
- Install a basket ball court.
- Install bike stands.
- Construct six dugouts - two for each ball field.
- Construct a trail system through the park to accommodate persons with handicaps.
- Install three bleachers, one for each ball field.
- Hook-up running water and install bubbler at the concession stand.
- Develop a multi-purpose field for such activities as soccer, flag football, softball, etc.
- Expand parking lot for park use.
- Add an addition or remodel the existing Pavilion.
- Upgrade fencing around all ball diamonds.

Town Hall Park

Facilities:

Three picnic shelter areas including two attached to the Volunteer Fire Department building; concession stand; 24 picnic tables; a variety of well-kept pieces of playground equipment; play house; and two basketball hoops located over the paved parking lot. There are no outdoor restrooms, however there is direct access to indoor wheel-chair accessible restroom facilities within the town hall.

Analysis:

Located immediately adjacent to the Town Hall and serviced by the Hall's paved parking lot, the park is approximately two acres in size. The Town Hall is located at the intersection of Lake Nooks Road and County L-Business 51. The Town proposes to extend the existing paved parking lot during the 2004-2008 period.

County L-Business 51 Wayside Park

Facilities:

Picnic shelter with picnic tables and grills.

Analysis:

Formerly maintained and owned by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, ownership of this small wayside was transferred to the Town of Nokomis. The wayside is located along the banks of Bearskin Creek. Besides serving travelers on Business 51, the wayside also serves as a pleasant picnic spot for local residents and a ready access for those who wish to fish the stream. There are no improvement projects scheduled for this park during the 2004-2008 period.

Town of Pelican

The Town of Pelican has a swimming beach and picnic area by the Town Hall. The Town intends to acquire picnic tables for this area during the 2004-2008 period.

Town of Piehl

The Town of Piehl currently has very limited recreational facilities and two boat access points. There are currently no scheduled improvements projects for the 2004-2008 period.

Town of Pine Lake

The Town of Pine Lake has very limited recreational facilities. There are four newly upgraded boat access points: one on Moens Lake, Boom Lake, and two on the Wisconsin River. The town also has a newly upgraded softball diamond with a restroom facility on Trail's End Road. There are currently no scheduled improvements projects for the 2004-2008 period.

Town of Schoepke

The Town of Schoepke currently has no land designated for public parks or recreational development. There are currently no scheduled improvements projects for the 2004-2008 period.

Town of Stella

The Town of Stella currently has no land designated for public parks or recreational development. There are currently no scheduled improvements projects for the 2004-2008 period.

Town of Sugar Camp

The Town of Sugar Camp has its own municipal Outdoor Recreation Plan. Sugar Camp is located in the north-central part of Oneida County and consists of 99 square miles of land area. The Town is divided by Hwy 17 which links to Eagle River and Rhinelander. Large blocks of land in the Town are maintained by industrial interests or in the Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest. Sugar Camp features numerous lakes and a large five lake chain. Thunder Lake Marsh, a state wildlife management area, is located along the east central part of the Town. The Town Center is located to the west of Sugar Camp Lake. Permanent and seasonal lake front homes are common and therefore heavily influences local population. Sugar Camp's estimated 2000 population is 1,781, up from the 1980 Census of 1,337 for a 33.2% increase.

Recreational Facilities

The Town's recreational facilities are mostly limited to the property immediately adjacent to the Town Hall. However, additional outdoor recreation facilities are managed by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources within the Northern Highland - American Legion State Forest and at the Thunder Lake Marsh wildlife management area. Boat landings/access sites are located on Chain, Indian, Lily Bass, Public Beach, Jennie Webber, and Sand Lakes. The Jennie Weber and Public Beach accesses are located on Wisconsin Department of Transportation highway corridors. The Jennie Weber access is a gravel pull-off and carry-in for small boats and canoes that is also used for shore fishing. The Sugar Camp Lake Public Beach access includes a small sandy beach area used for youth swimming lessons. Town-sponsored and maintained recreation facilities are managed directly by the Town Board. The Sugar Camp Lions Club has donated property and assisted with the development of the park area. The Town Hall also provides an indoor, winterized space for dances and other social events and recreational activities.

Town of Sugar Camp/Lions Park

Facilities:

Three ball fields with lighting and new bleachers on one field; two soccer fields with cyclone fencing along west side; two new basketball courts with lights and fencing; lighted tennis courts; concession stand/announcer booth; playground equipment with wood chip base and ADA accessibility; picnic shelter; pavilion with kitchen, bathroom facilities, concession stand, and picnic area; horseshoe pits; two lighted volleyball courts; blacktop parking lot; restroom; and drinking fountain.

Analysis:

This park is heavily used by Town residents. The park is located near the elementary school so it also sees significant after-school activity. Increased demand for soccer and baseball leagues will continue to enhance the use of this area. The proximity to the Town Hall means the park receives increased security and maintenance attention.

Scheduled Improvements:

- Bring third baseball field up to Babe Ruth specifications in 2004 for \$12,000.
- Install outside lighting for at least one of the soccer fields.
- Pave blacktop paths to all fields for people with disabilities.

- Develop a swimming pool.

Sugar Camp Lake Beaches

The town has recently acquired a new and larger beach area in addition to the existing beach on Sugar Camp Lake. There is off-highway parking, a unisex bathroom and changing room, and park benches. There are no other scheduled improvements to this area for the 2004 to 2008 period.

Snowmobile Trails

The trail system in Sugar Camp is part of the larger system that covers the County and the surrounding region. Sugar Camp has recently replaced and repaired some of the bridges on the trails. The Town has not scheduled any improvements for the 2004 to 2008 period, however the snowmobile clubs will perform many maintenance and improvement activities during this time.

Cross-Country Ski Trails

The Town has potential for the development of a cross-country ski trail for local use. Possible sites could include either the Northern Highland - American Legion State Forest or perhaps paper company forestlands. Otherwise, the Town has no plans for improvements during the 2004 to 2008 period.

Boat Landings

The Town has recently added gravel to the Chain Lake Access and has plans to construct a cement ramp and launching pier for the Indian Lake access. Otherwise, there are no other scheduled improvements to boat landings for the 2004 to 2008 period.

Town of Three Lakes

Three Lakes currently has its own municipal Outdoor Recreation Plan and utilizes the services of a Parks Board. The Town of Three Lakes is located in the northeastern part of Oneida County. The Three Lakes Chain - the world's largest interconnected chain of inland freshwater lakes - is found here. This tremendous 20-lake chain includes a surface area of 7,626 acres and a 106-mile shoreline. This chain also connects with the eight-lake Eagle River Chain with a boat lift to hoist fishing and touring boats over the Burnt Rollways Dam. Besides the chain, numerous other individual lakes dot the town. Resorts, camps, and permanent and seasonal lakefront homes surround most of the available shorelines. Many once seasonal cottages are now being converted to year-round vacation and retirement homes, and a large number of year-round homes are being constructed to meet the increasing demand. The eastern side of the Town includes large sections of the Nicolet National Forest, a prime recreation and scenic attraction. National Forest facilities in the Town include campgrounds, swimming beaches, hiking and nature interpretive trails, biking trails, scenic auto and bicycle roads, picnic areas, boat landings, and public hunting areas with trails. Just out of the Town center is the Thunder Lake Marsh Wildlife Area. This area is managed by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources primarily for waterfowl production. Over 100 waterfowl pair ponds have been constructed to enhance breeding ducks. In addition, the area features both bald eagle and osprey nests and a great blue heron rookery. Part of the property is established as a wildlife refuge, and all of the area provides excellent wildlife viewing opportunities.

The population of Three Lakes has grown by 25.5% in the last twenty years. From a population of 1,337 in 1980 to 1,781 in 2000, the Town has begun to develop quickly over the last ten years. The impact of seasonal housing is quite severe here, exacerbating the impact of the campgrounds, hotels, motels, and resorts in the Town.

Recreational Facilities

Three Lakes has developed and manages three parks with assistance from both youth and adult baseball and softball leagues, soccer leagues, the Three Lakes School District, local horse club, the Northern Lights Snowmobile Club and Three Lakes Trails, Inc., the Aqua Devils Water Ski Show, and others. Both state-funded and club-funded snowmobile trails crisscross Three Lakes. They are maintained by the local clubs in conjunction with Oneida County's Snowmobile Trail Council. Snowmobilers can access the Kimball Creek Trail, a 19-mile scenic route through the Nicolet National Forest or connect to other trails in downtown Three Lakes leading to Eagle River, Michigan's Upper Peninsula, Sugar Camp, Monico, Crandon, and Rhinelander.

About 15 public boat access sites are in the Town, most maintained by the DNR or Nicolet National Forest. The Townline Lake landing was developed through the efforts of the Three Lakes Fish & Wildlife Club and includes restrooms and launching/fishing pier. The club also dredged the site for easier boat launching. Other accesses to the Chain are available at private marinas. Three Lakes has one groomed cross-country ski trail located behind the Three Lakes High School building. The trail is groomed by a local sporting goods merchant, and is open for public use. The Anvil Lake and Nicolet North cross-country ski trails are also located within reasonable driving distance. Both systems include options for skating and diagonal stride techniques. The Three Lakes School District has cooperated with the Town Park Board in

developing recreation facilities since the school buildings are located only one block from the Three Lakes Recreational Park. The School District has developed a football field, playground equipment, and an ice-skating/hockey rink for winter use. School classes and athletic programs use the Recreational Park for a variety of activities.

Three Lakes Recreational Park

Facilities:

One baseball and two softball/little league diamonds with dugouts, bleachers and fencing, one diamond also includes lighting and an electric scoreboard; two T-ball backstops/fields; multi-purpose field used for soccer; two horseshoe pits; sand volleyball courts; full-sized basketball court; heated indoor/outdoor pavilion with restrooms, picnic and folding tables; restroom/shelter building with drinking fountain, and concession/announcer stand located by the lighted ball diamond; five tennis courts with lighting; paved volleyball court and half-court basketball hoop also lighted; playground equipment; soccer goals; paved parking area; and Three Lakes Unlimited snowmobile storage room/cook shack facility and announcer stand in the connected Snowmobile Park area.

Analysis:

This 37-acre park has continued to receive extensive development and maintenance efforts over the years. It is the focal point for community recreation within the Town, and will continue to serve in that capacity for the future. Its proximity to the School complex means the park will serve physical education class and after-school athletic program needs, as well as after-school general recreation needs of students. It also provides facilities for both adult and youth ball leagues during the summer season. The continued planning and improvement work by the Park Board has made this park outstanding, and there is ample evidence of commitment on the part of the Park Board and Town that these efforts will continue into the future.

Scheduled Improvements:

- Construct wheelchair accessible trails to the pavilion and other park facilities.
- Construct a paved rollerblade hockey/skating rink for summer youth activities.
- Install high quality break-away basketball rims and backboards.
- Install new playground equipment.
- Develop a mountain bike trail or track within the park.
- Construct a storage building for park equipment and maintenance supplies.
- Construct a restroom facility with drinking water adjacent to serve the Snowmobile Park area and summer horse show.
- Install lighting for the little league/softball field closest to the pavilion (electric hookups with 400 amp service are already installed).
- Construct shuffleboard courts.

Cy Williams Park

Facilities:

Playground apparatus including swing sets, slides, and spring horses; swimming beach and pier; accessible restroom/changing room facility; picnic shelter with 10 picnic tables; grill; outdoor picnic tables and rest benches; volleyball net and paved parking.

Analysis:

This 2-acre park is located in the Town Center and lies between the Three Lakes Information Bureau and the Maple Lake shoreline. The picnic shelter hosts the Fireman's Picnic annually. A road between the picnic shelter and restroom and the beach area is blocked off during the summer season. A section of the lake is plowed off for ice skating in the winter.

Scheduled Improvements:

- Develop accessible toilet facility onto the Information Bureau building to service the upper end of the park as well as visitors stopping for information
- Hook up the restroom/changing room to sanitary sewer and water lines
- Continue to add playground equipment
- Construct a scenic Lake Walk pathway along the shore of Maple Lake
- Develop the volleyball net into a sand court

Phyllis B. Felland Memorial Water Ski Park -

Facilities:

Log toilet facility/shelter with drinking water fountain; bleachers and announcer stand; new storage building / concession stand with electric hookups.

Analysis:

Located on the shore of Big Stone Lake next to the golf course facility, this 3.7-acre park was donated to the Town by the Felland family. The park's primary use is for the Aqua Devils water ski show and the Chain O' Lakes water-ski school. Maintenance and development of this park is through cooperative efforts with the water-ski club.

Scheduled Improvements:

- Construct a new storage/concession stand and remove the old buildings. Upgrade the electric hookups to eliminate safety hazard.
- Remove old wood bleachers and purchase two more sets of 50-seat aluminum bleachers.
- Finish landscaping and developing of the restroom/shelter facility by placing picnic tables under and around the shelter building, and installing an outside shower on the back of the restrooms for use by the water ski show staff.

Bicycle Trails

The Three Lakes bicycle routes include scenic paved roads, varying lengths of gravel roads, and even some off-road mountain bike trail options. Bike tours are also sponsored by local youth camps.

Scheduled Improvements:

- Explore the opportunities for development of a packed-gravel bicycle trail utilizing the old railroad bed extending from downtown Three Lakes north to Clearwater. This trail could also feature side trips into the Thunder Lake Marsh Wildlife Management Area. The project would need to include construction of a bridge over a creek.
- Develop marked bicycle paved and gravel road routes and off-road mountain bike trails with supporting maps and descriptive brochures. These could be distributed to interested tourists and residents through the town office, Information Bureau, local sport shops and resorts. Consider development of a self-guiding nature interpretive bicycle trail booklet to highlight the outstanding natural features of the area.

Canoe Trail

The Town of Three Lakes has plans to designate one or more canoe routes and provide additional accesses. Otherwise, there are no scheduled improvements for the 2004 to 2008 period.

Boat Accesses

The Town of Three Lakes has plans to develop a Townline Lake Boat Ramp and add two new accesses – one at Medicine Lake and one at Big Fork Lake.

Town of Woodboro

The Town of Woodboro currently has no land designated for public parks or recreational development. There are currently no scheduled improvements projects for the 2004-2008 period.

Town of Woodruff

Woodruff currently has its own municipal Outdoor Recreation Plan. The Town of Woodruff lies on the northern edge of Oneida County, with Vilas County and the Town of Arbor Vitae to the north. The Woodruff business district is located just north of Minocqua by the intersection of Highways 51/70 and 47. The Town therefore lies at a major crossroads in the Northwoods and attracts numerous tourists. The Town includes parts of the Minocqua/Mid Lake/Tomahawk Lake chain, as well as numerous individual lakes. Many of the individual lakes (Carrol, Clear, Little Bass, Sweeny, Cunard, Gilmore, and Hasbrook) have a little or no private development due to state land ownership. Permanent and seasonal lakefront homes are common and add greatly to the Town's tax base given that 87% of the property is owned by the state. This property is managed by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources as part of the Northern Highland - American Legion State Forest. The DNR Woodruff Area Headquarters and Fish Hatchery are located about two miles east of the business district on Hwy. J. The hatchery serves as an important area attraction.

The estimated 2000 population for Woodruff is 1,982, up from the 1980 Census estimate of 1,458. Woodruff has experienced a 35.9% growth increase in the last twenty years. The students in Woodruff attend either the Arbor Vitae-Woodruff School (K-8) or Lakeland Union High School (9-12). Both schools feature outdoor recreation facilities for after school athletics and general recreation.

Recreational Facilities

The Town's outdoor recreation facilities are augmented by facilities provided by the Northern Highland - American Legion State Forest, the local school system, numerous private resorts and attractions, and youth camps. The DNR maintains public campground facilities at Lake Cunard, Carrol Lake, Clear Lake, Tomahawk Lake and Buffalo Lake within the Town of Woodruff. Two well-groomed cross-country ski trails are also maintained by the DNR: the Raven Trail system provides a range of trails including some of northern Wisconsin's finest expert trails for diagonal stride only, while the Madeline Lake system provides beginner and intermediate routes. Water-based recreation is enhanced by DNR-maintained public boat accesses. Landings are provided on Minocqua, Tomahawk, Clear, Madeline, Carrol, Dorothy, Sweeney, Cunard, Hasbrook, Gilmore and Buffalo lakes. Both state-funded and club-funded snowmobile trails crisscross the Town and wind through the State Forest. These trails are maintained by local clubs in conjunction with the Oneida County Snowmobile Trail Council.

Brandy Park

The Town of Woodruff and the Town of Arbor Vitae joined to establish the Brandy Park Commission to manage the development and maintenance of the co-owned Brandy Park. This site is the major outdoor recreation facility and is located just northwest of the Town's northern boundary off Lemma Creek Road in Arbor Vitae.

Facilities:

Two baseball fields with fencing and bleachers; soccer field with lighting; large shelter building with grills and picnic tables; two tennis courts with fencing; two sand volleyball courts; paved full basketball court with fencing; an extensive series of playground equipment including a well

landscaped, fenced-in area for younger children; swimming beach with pier and lifeguard stand; changing house/restroom facility; shoreline picnic area with tables, grills and rest benches; and paved walkway from shelter to beach parking area. Winter facilities include a ice skating activities with a warming house and restrooms.

Analysis:

The Town of Woodruff has invested considerable time and resources into the development of this local park facility through the Brandy Park Commission and in conjunction with the Town of Arbor Vitae. The park receives heavy usage by youth and adult ball leagues, softball, baseball, soccer, and volleyball recreational league usage.

Scheduled Improvements:

- Improve the existing changing house/restroom facility for better handicapped accessibility. The current facilities do not meet the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. This facility should be linked with wheelchair-accessible pathways to the parking lot (with designated handicapped parking spaces), and to the beach/picnic area. Investigate hooking up this facility to sanitary sewer and water.
- Develop a second soccer field. There is high demand for these facilities by youth soccer leagues.
- Develop a skate park facility within Brandy Park. Currently this is under consideration.
- Create a Multi-purpose Trail System that links with the Bearskin State Bike Trail.
- Create a permanent snowmobile trail linking the Minocqua trails with the Woodruff downtown business district.

Part VIII – Implementation Strategies

Introduction

Plans must be implemented to have any measurable effect. This section provides a number of strategies available for the implementation of the plan including adoption of ordinances and sources of funding.

Strategies

Natural Resource Zoning

Natural resource zoning may be used to protect shorelands, wetlands, floodplains, agricultural lands, groundwater recharge areas, and recreation lands. The State of Wisconsin Statutes (Section 59.971) and Administrative Code (NR 115) require shoreland-wetland and floodplain zoning by all counties. Counties are responsible for shoreland zoning in unincorporated areas. The purpose of these regulations is to protect shorelines, floodplains, and wetlands from undesirable use and development. Counties may choose to regulate natural resource areas beyond shorelands and floodplains through institution of county-wide zoning as authorized under the Wisconsin Statutes. Villages and cities are responsible for their own natural resource zoning as part of their conventional land-use zoning.

Park Dedication

Subdivision regulations can be used by counties to require developers to dedicate a portion of the subdivided land for permanent park and open space use in areas which are experiencing significant residential growth. Neighborhood parks may be acquired in this manner in newly developing residential areas. Local landowners should also be encouraged to dedicate land to their communities for recreational uses. Numerous small town memorial parks have been acquired through the generosity of local citizens. If citizens are made aware of community needs, this form of private action may continue to enrich the public resources of small communities.

Land Use Agreement

Open space and public recreation use of private land may be acquired by agreement. With an agreement, certain uses are granted to the public for a specific period of time and the private owner can be compensated for that public use. For example, establishing a public hiking trail or a boat access to a waterway may be accomplished through a land use agreement.

Leases

Leases are used to allow the use or protection of land until more permanent measures may be found. By leasing parcels of land, the land remains on the tax rolls. Property owners may renegotiate the lease from time to time, or may choose to terminate the lease if another use proves to be more attractive. Another leasing method involves outright purchase of land by the county. The county then leases the land to a private party or organization with use restrictions placed on the land. Under this method, the county receives some monetary return on its investment and retains control over the use of the land.

Historic Sites

Historic sites can be rewarding additions to any community's recreation program. This is especially true in areas oriented to serving a significant tourist trade. Nearly all communities in North Central Wisconsin are in this category and should all identify and study their historic sites. Assistance and guidance for the study could be obtained from the Wisconsin Council for local History, an organization affiliated with the State Historical Society and the local County Historical Society.

Program Costs

A community should carefully watch operations and maintenance costs when setting up a parks program. Overly ambitious acquisitions and/or development programs can easily lead to annual costs larger than the community can afford to meet. Recreation facilities like golf courses and swimming pools, for example, require large annual maintenance investments to continue.

Capital Improvements

Community officials should develop five-year capital recreation improvement programs that reflect the implementation of proposals made in their plans and the priorities placed upon them. To be functional, the program must be flexible and be subject to annual review. Care should be taken to ensure that the annual cost of maintenance does not exceed an amount the community can afford to pay.

Aid Programs

Take advantage of both financial and technical aid programs from the state and federal government. These programs are designed to assist communities in meeting recreational needs and are available to all communities that maintain eligibility for such programs. Besides state and federal aid programs, there are other sources of funding such as private foundations, trust funds, and civic and recreation organizations.

The Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund is a comprehensive aid program for the promotion of resource conservation and outdoor recreation opportunities sponsored by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Applications to the Stewardship Fund must include an approved comprehensive recreation plan and this plan is designed to meet that requirement. For additional information, contact the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources at the name and address given below or visit the Wisconsin DNR website at: www.dnr.state.wi.us.

Ms. Patricia Zatopa, Community Services Specialist
WI Department of Natural Resources
107 Sutliff Avenue
Rhinelander, WI 54501
(715) 365 - 8928

Future Planning

At a minimum, all communities should reassess their recreational needs near the end of the five-year period covered by this plan. More frequent appraisal of needs may be called for under certain conditions such as extreme variations in funding capability, rapid population changes,

actions of other units of government and private enterprise, and the recognition of new legislation, laws, and public programs.

Priorities

The need for community officials to establish priorities within their recreation program is emphasized by the scope of the previous recommendations. Although it is unlikely that all of these recommendations will be undertaken within the time period of this plan, there is an outstanding opportunity for inroads to be made. Recognition of increasing demands for recreation, space, and facilities should prompt immediate action.

Lifetime Activities

Community and school officials responsible for recreation should place greater emphasis on the provision of areas and facilities that can support "lifetime" recreational activities. Falling into this category are activities like golf, tennis, all target sports, horseshoes, cross country skiing, skating, running, volleyball, handball, badminton, back packing, and canoeing. Unfortunately, community and school recreation facilities are often oriented only to games important to the most athletically inclined. Schools and communities should also have programs aimed at teaching recreational activities people can participate in for a lifetime.

Winter Activities

All communities should provide winter outdoor recreation facilities. Skating and sliding sports (sledding, tobogganing, and skiing) can generally be provided without large investments. Skating, for example, can be as involved as providing rinks for ice hockey or as simple as flooding a small area of a school playground.

Snowmobile Routes

Specific streets or rights-of-way should be designated for snowmobile use during winter months. Since snowmobiles can be a nuisance and a hazard for non-users, municipalities may wish to keep these vehicular uses separated to some degree. Snowmobilers are then expected to restrict their activities within the community to the specific routes.

All-Terrain Vehicle Routes

Explore the potential impacts and benefits of creating additional ATV trails for use either seasonally or year-round. Identify the amount of money available for ATV trails from the State and other sources. Hold meetings and informational sessions to discuss the issue and gather input from citizens.

Specialized Facilities

Encourage the development of specialized facilities by the private sector, such as golfing clubs and ski resorts. These private facilities can be an important adjunct to public recreational facilities. Quality and availability for public use should be emphasized.

Municipal-School District Cooperation

Promote cooperation between municipalities and school districts in meeting recreational needs. Cooperation may take the form of joint land acquisition and/or facilities development cost-

sharing. Increased municipal use of existing school facilities during non-school hours should also be encouraged.

Senior Citizen Involvement

Although senior citizens often compose a significant proportion of the total community's population, they are often neglected in recreational planning. Seniors should be involved in the development of community parks to ensure that recreational facilities are provided for their use. Benches placed near neighborhood parks, play areas, and non-intensive sports facilities help seniors to more fully utilize park benefit. Small, passive-use parks and gardens should be encouraged near nursing and retirement homes.

Service Group Involvement

Organized service group involvement can help in park and recreation development needs. Traditionally, service groups and recreation organizations like the Lions Club, the VFW, softball leagues, and snowmobile clubs have played an active role in the development of facilities and activities. Continued activity of this type should be encouraged. In addition, service groups could help to meet the need for neighborhood facilities by supplementing municipal financial resources providing organizational assistance, and offering volunteer labor.

Community Beautification

All communities should recognize that community appearance is an important component of a recreation program. Maintained streets and sidewalks, attractive trees and shrubs, well cared-for homes and commercial buildings, and neat landscapes are all principal contributors to community beautification. Such a program is most rewarding to persons engaged in passive recreation.

Adopt-A-Park Program

This program would encourage local groups to agree to clean and help maintain a park, trail segment, or stream segment or segment in a manner similar to the very successful Adopt-a-Highway program. The volunteer time spent maintaining and beautifying the county's recreational system would allow for more county funds to provide major improvements.

Provisions For Updating

Planning programs should be on-going and flexible, therefore periodic updating of this plan is necessary for continued refinement and course correction. Some of the planning recommendations will not be accomplished within the five-year planning program and therefore additional recommendations may be added as new recreational activities come into demand or the status of existing facilities change. The Oneida County Forestry, Land, and Outdoor Recreation Committee should annually review the plan and invite the town boards, the Rhinelander City Council, the school districts, and other interested parties to offer input at a review hearing. The following information should be obtained for consideration in updating the plan:

1. Improvements needed to existing facilities.
2. Demand for new facilities.
3. Potential projects to fulfill demand and the project sponsor(s).

The Committee should review this information and evaluate the need for proposed projects based on standards and priorities as outlined in this plan. The entire plan should be updated no less than every five years to ensure that the plan reflects changes in the recreational needs of the county and to maintain the county's eligibility for grant programs.

APPENDIX A

Oneida County Pedestrian and Bicycle Corridors Plan, 2002

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Oneida County Pedestrian and Bicycle Corridor Plan is comprised of five sections and an appendix of supporting material. The five sections include: purpose, background, community input, route selection and Implementation.

1. PURPOSE

This plan is intended to guide the development of pedestrian and bicycle facilities in Oneida County within the framework of the County's overall transportation system. The vision of this plan is to increase the mobility of people within the County by making walking and bicycling viable and attractive transportation choices.

The potential benefits of bicycling or walking are significant and help to justify the expenditure required to develop a comprehensive, safe and attractive bicycle and pedestrian network within the community. On a national, state and local level, the public is increasingly recognizing the benefits of biking and walking beyond their recreational values. Broadly categorized, these benefits include:

- | | | |
|-----------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| -Transportation | - Health and Fitness | - Recreation |
| - Economic | - Social | - Quality of Life |
| - Environmental | | |

All of these many benefits can be achieved by implementing this Pedestrian and Bicycle Corridors Plan and increasing the number of miles of trails available within the County. Developing a quality trail system can help diversify the local tourism economy and help buffer the impact of future poor snow seasons.

2. BACKGROUND

This project is part of the *Healthy People, Healthy Oneida County* community health plan. One of the goals of the plan is to increase the number of miles of walking and biking trails/routes in Oneida County to encourage physical activity.

The plan was prepared by the North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission under the guidance and direction of the Oneida County Walking and Bike Paths Committee. This Committee has engaged local organizations, government agencies, business interests and citizens in the planning process. The Committee established criteria to help determine what corridors and routes to include in the plan. The criteria included linking of existing trails, population centers, schools, significant cultural or natural resources, and adjacent counties. Other criteria included collaborating with other groups and making use of industrial forestlands, public lands, abandoned rail lines, and rustic roads. Factors considered included traffic volumes, presence of paved shoulders and future planned road improvements.

In addition to the County Health Plan, the Trails Plan relates to a number of other plans at the state and county level. These interrelated plans include: Statewide comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), State Trails Network Plan, Oneida County Outdoor Recreation Plan, WI Bicycle Transportation Plan 2020, WI Pedestrian

Policy Plan 2020, and Rhinelander Area Pathways Project.

3. COMMUNITY INPUT

The Oneida County Walking and Bike Paths Committee itself is composed of a broad cross-section of walking and bicycling interests and includes representatives from various local jurisdictions, County agencies, and the County Board. The Committee held regular working meetings which were open to and occasionally attended by the general public. The Committee sought to broaden public input on its work through mailings to town boards, public hearings, and a survey.

4. ROUTE SELECTION

Corridors were identified for development as part of an Oneida County Walking and Biking Trail System by the Walking and Bike Paths Committee. The suggested routes are general in nature and provide options where possible. Specific alignments need to be further developed at the time a project is undertaken. Routing will be dependant on the physical characteristics of the location to be developed. The political and financial climate at the time will also have a significant impact on the final design of any segment to be built. The general corridors include:

- Rhinelander – Three Lakes - US Highway 45
- US Highway 8 East
- Rhinelander – Bearskin Trail
- Bearskin Trail
- Rustic Rds Loop
- Willow Reservoir Loop
- CTH G – NTC/Almon
- Bearskin – Rhinelander-Woodruff Trail.
- CTHs D, E and O
- Scotchman Lk. Rd. / Pine Lk. Rd. / Price Co. Rd
- Hazelhurst Connectors
- Rhinelander East
- Crescent Lake Loop
- Rhinelander-Woodruff Tr.

5. IMPLEMENTATION

The success of this effort is contingent on the support of the private sector and the cooperation and coordination of the various municipalities affected by the project. With this partnership approach in mind, it is recommended that the County Board take the following actions to implement this Trail Corridors Plan:

- Adopt the County Trails Plan as an addendum to the County Outdoor Recreation Plan.
- Develop and maintain a County trails map.
- Support the Oneida Trails Corp.'s, or similar groups, efforts to fund hiking and biking trails in the County with minimum public money through tax-free private donations.
- Sponsor/co-sponsor applications for state/federal grants to leverage outside funding.
- Encourage other local units of government within the County to be sponsors or co-sponsors of projects which fall within their jurisdiction and are supported by citizens.
- Explore the potential of establishing a countywide bicycle registration/license fee to help fund trail development and maintenance.
- Consider needs of pedestrians/bicyclists in road projects & build facilities accordingly.
- Support the City of Rhinelander's trail planning efforts, currently underway.
- Work with the City's trail planning group and the Oneida Trails Corp. to develop and utilize uniform signage to create a cohesive identity for trails throughout the County.
- Promote land use policies that are pedestrian and bicyclist friendly.

Copies of this plan may be obtained from the Oneida County Clerk, the Oneida County Health Department, or from NCWRPC.

APPENDIX B

Rhineland Area Pathways Project (RAPP), 2003

This plan is intended to guide the development of bicycle and pedestrian facilities for the City of Rhineland within the context of the greater urban area. The vision of this plan is to increase the mobility of people in the Rhineland area by making bicycling and walking viable and attractive transportation choices. The plan also embraces other types of non-motorized travel modes such as wheel chairs or roller blades. No one should be excluded from the system. The corridors or pathways recommended within the plan will connect people to destinations such as employment centers, schools, residential districts, recreation areas and commercial retail areas (downtown and surrounding shopping areas). This plan incorporates interconnection with neighboring towns, various destinations outside of the city and the planned Oneida County Trail System.

To provide a conceptual framework for this planning effort, a vision was developed of what the pathway system might be like in 20 to 30 years. This vision is described below:

The Rhineland Area Pathways Project (RAPP) is the ongoing work of a volunteer citizen's committee operating with the encouragement and under the auspices of the City Council to spearhead the development of a comprehensive bicycle and pedestrian pathway system for the City.

Central to the concept is a web of pathways, a network that reaches from city limit to city limit and along the river wherever physically possible, including across bridges and islands. The pathway network is a transportation alternative, allowing bicycle, pedestrian and other non-motorized modes of travel safe access to and from residential and commercial segments throughout the City as well as linking existing and future parks and recreation facilities.

The network's main loop connects Hodag Park, the Jr. and Sr. High Schools, Pioneer Park and integrates the downtown area with the Riverwalk Mall complex, the Riverwalk path, and the projected whitewater canoe and kayak channel, bringing a new focus on the rivers that are the historical foundation of the City. Branches from this loop reach out to the new YMCA and hospital, to Nicolet College, to the BMX facility at West Park and the Rhineland-Woodruff Trail via Larson Drive. These routes are the framework around which future routes are planned and built.

Reaching westward out of the City, a trail connects the Rhineland Loop to the Bearskin Trail. This route would also provide bicycle/pedestrian links to Town Line Lake Park, Perch Lake Park, Washburn Lake Hiking & Mountain Biking Trail and the Camp Birchrock Campfire Girls facility before reaching the Bearskin trailhead near Highway K.

Students, staff and teachers who previously drove to school use bicycle transportation to and from the number of public schools along the intended routes. Many of our senior citizens walk for exercise using the pathways and routes. Families who vacation in nearby resorts bike into town. The entire community is invigorated!

To bring this vision into reality, development and expansion of the pathway system should be a central focus for public and private expenditure within the community. Generally speaking, development of pathway segments should proceed in a planned manner with minimum capital costs until segments can be linked or terminated at logical points such as bridge crossings or intersections.

The potential benefits of bicycling or walking are significant and help to justify the expenditure required to develop a comprehensive, safe and attractive bicycle and pedestrian network within the community. On a national, state and local level, the public is increasingly recognizing the benefits of biking and walking beyond their recreational values. Broadly categorized, these benefits include:

Transportation benefits – General transportation benefits of bicycling and walking include a wider range of transportation choices, reduced congestion, decreased need for parking, and the implementation of safety improvements that benefit all roadway users. Biking and walking are among the most efficient modes of transportation in regards to operation, development of facilities, and maintenance.

Health and fitness benefits – Bicycling and walking are among the best forms of exercise and can therefore effectively enhance the health of individuals and the community.

Recreation benefits – Paths developed for bicycling and walking provide recreation opportunities.

Economic benefits – Bicycling translates into tourism. The Wisconsin Department of Tourism has targeted bike touring and trail riding as high potential tourism activities since the 1980's and has recently added mountain biking to the list. The State annually distributes over 50,000 Wisconsin bike maps. Several studies of state trail-related expenditures have been conducted showing expenditures ranging from \$33 to \$49 per person.

Social benefits – Bicycling and walking stimulate the social interaction of families and the community.

Quality of Life benefits – The extent of bicycling and walking in a community has been described as a gauge of how well it is advancing its citizens' quality of life. Streets that are busy with walkers and bicyclists are considered environments that work at a more human scale and foster a heightened sense of place. These benefits are difficult to quantify, but asked to identify sites that they are most proud of, residents often name spots where walking and bicycling are common, such as a popular bikeway or riverfront project.

Environmental benefits – Biking and walking consumes no fossil fuels and do not contribute to noise or air pollution. Further, development of off-road facilities can protect and enhance natural resources.

This report is arranged to provide background information on the plan development process and goals, to present a detailed program for establishing a bike and pedestrian pathway system, and to suggest an action program for carrying out these recommendations. Copies of this report may be obtained from the City of Rhinelander or from NCWRPC.

APPENDIX C

Oneida County Outdoor Recreation Survey 2003-2004

In an effort to obtain public input, the Oneida County Forestry, Land, and Outdoor Recreation Committee developed an opinion survey. The survey was based upon a similar survey used in the previous 1999-2003 Oneida County Outdoor Recreation Plan. Surveys were made available at 2 public meetings specifically dedicated to soliciting comments on the Five Year Outdoor Recreation draft plan. Surveys were also mailed or directly distributed to area outdoor recreation clubs that have an established record of interaction with the Forestry Department and its recreation programs. The survey was made available for download on two web sites: 1) the official Oneida County government home page and 2) the Rhinelander Chamber of Commerce web page. There was also notice provided in at least two area newspapers (i.e. Rhinelander Daily News and the Lakeland Times) regarding the availability of the survey at the Oneida County Courthouse and the area Chambers of Commerce for walk-in visitors.

Analysis

A total of 184 responses were received and quantified. Since the survey was not distributed randomly, it should not be considered to statistically represent the opinions of the general public. However, the survey could statistically represent Oneida County residents most predisposed to utilize the County's recreational facilities. Even so, the results of this survey are intended to provide a general idea of recreational need, not to present statistical results for inference to the general population of Oneida County.

Results

The results of the survey are provided here in a manner consistent with how the questions appeared on the survey itself. Each quantifiable answer is listed with the total number of respondents indicating a particular choice followed by a percentage of those who actually answered the question (non-answer responses are not part of the percentage). Written answers and comments are provided at the end in a listed format. Some surveys were returned with attached letters that were sometimes quite lengthy – these have been summarized through the use of excerpts and are indicated as such when they appear. These have been forwarded to the Forestry Department.

ONEIDA COUNTY OUTDOOR RECREATION SURVEY

1. Are you filling out this survey to represent a recreational group or club? N=180
Yes: 41 (23%) No: 139 (77%) No Answer: 7

Comment: Over three-quarters of the respondents were giving their individual opinions, meanwhile approximately one-quarter indicated they were providing the opinions of several

people. One cannot be sure how these representatives gathered the input of the club, nor what the percentage was of those that dissented from the majority opinion.

Recommendation: Future surveys should be implemented in two ways: 1) to the individual directly, and 2) at official club meetings. Surveys administered to clubs should be independently identified so it can be weighted differently and treated as a majority opinion.

1a. If yes, to which club(s) do you belong? N=41

ATV Club (18) Canoe and Hiking Club (9) 4-Wheel Drive Club (7)

Biking/hiking Club (4) Ski Club (2) Snowmobile Club (1)

Comment: This question can be loosely used to add weight to other responses in the survey. It may be assumed that responses concerning these activities are likely under quoted with respect to the number of actual participants in Oneida County.

Recommendation: This question could be omitted if the survey is implemented as suggested in #1 above.

2. What outdoor activities have you engaged in over the past twelve (12) months?

Swimming 130	Fishing 117	Hiking 127	Golfing 46
Camping 123	Snowmobiling 56	X-Country Skiing 95	Sightseeing 85
Canoeing 106	Bicycling 121	All-Terrain Vehicles 61	Driving for Pleasure 70
Motor Boating 83	Hunting 94	Picnicking 78	Tennis 6

Other popular activities include: 4x4 Truck Driving (10), Snow Shoeing (21), Kayaking (9)

Recommendation: The Tennis category should be removed in future surveys as it is inconsistent with the others and replaced with 4X4 Trucking/ORV use. Snow Shoeing should be added to Cross-Country Skiing and Canoeing combined with and Kayaking for future surveys.

3. Facility Questions

Comment: These questions were intended to provide very specific evaluation of each County recreational facility. Respondents were asked to indicate which facilities they had used in the past year and evaluate each.

Recommendation: Future surveys should significantly reduce these questions to feature overall satisfaction ratings and a general comment line. Many surveys were left unanswered in this section due to the length of time it would take to complete it and due to confusion over whether a park facility could be rated by persons who had visited prior to one year ago.

a. ALMON PARK (Buck Lake)

Facility	Times used in past 12 months?			Excellent					Poor	
	1-5	6-10	11+	1	2	3	4	5		
Swimming Beach Avg. Rating: 1.7 Estimated Usage Rating: 221	51	10	10	43	18	7	4	1		
Restrooms/Changing Rooms Avg. Rating: 2.3 Estimated Usage Rating: 168	50	5	8	16	21	18	4	2		
Picnic Tables Avg. Rating: 2.0 Estimated Usage Rating: 139	54	5	5	20	25	16	1	1		
Grills Avg. Rating: 2.2 Estimated Usage Rating: 42	20	0	2	7	8	9	0	1		
Shelters Avg. Rating: 1.6 Estimated Usage Rating: 41	30	0	1	19	11	3	2	1		
Nature Trails Avg. Rating: 1.6 Estimated Usage Rating: 201	40	14	7	33	18	6	0	2		
Parking Area Avg. Rating: 2.2 Estimated Usage Rating: 311	55	17	14	26	29	17	5	4		
Other: _____ Avg. Rating: 2.0 Estimated Usage Rating: 3	3	0	0	2	0	0	1	0		
OVERALL SATISFACTION Avg. Rating: 1.7				21	13	5	0	1		

Comment: According to respondents, the three most used facilities at Almon Park are 1) the parking lot, 2) the Swimming Beach, and 3) the Nature Trails. The Shelters, Nature Trails, and Swimming Beach had the highest levels of user satisfaction. Of all park areas, this is the most heavily used by respondents.

General Comments About Almon Park:

A great resource!
A wonderful nature resource.
Always nice.
Beautiful beach, well maintained
Beautiful!! Every season.
Could use more picnic tables and grills
Don't overdevelop. Keep N'woods atmosphere

Don't use (x2)
Entrance road to park needs repaving.
Ex!!
Excellent
Fully met our needs.
Good
Good to Fair
Great Area
Great board walk through wetlands. Great swimming lake. A lot of recreational opportunities in a small package. We're fortunate to have it in public trust.
Great nature trail!
Great place. Trails very nice. Gets crowded on warm days. Have observed trash in lake, assume from picnickers.
Group picnic.
Have used beach and nature trails in past and were pleased with quality.
Haven't used this park this year but in past years it has been very nice!
I have not used Almon Park in the past year, but in the past I was very satisfied with the facility. Can be overcrowded on weekends.
I love the park. Use it mostly for biking and swimming for many years.
I think the old changing rooms should be torn down by the parking area now that there is new facilities down by the beach. It's kind of an eye sore.
I would live it if bikes were allowed on hiking trail.
Impressed by the site.
It would be nice to have more winter activities at this park. Make this park area a winter rec. destination/4 season use.
It's a great asset.
It's a really great place--beautiful beach and nice trails for snow shoeing.
Large bumps in the road leading directly in to the parking area. Some identification signs on the trail are down.
Love it. Great beach
My friends from out-of-town are impressed with Buck Lake!
Nice facility
Only use it for party gatherings/group picnics
Parking area very bumpy, not a high priority for me. Keep bikes off nature trail, also unleashed dogs.
Apparently people don't read.
The kids love Buck Lake. Even their cousins from out of town love it.
This park stands out as a gem among county park facilities statewide.
Too far away for my family to enjoy on a regular basis.
Trails need clearing after "heavy" storms. Many windfalls are apparent and often impassable.
Very beautiful; good trails and beach
Very Good
Very nice
Very nice park. Can get too crowded in summer.
Very nice, leave as is
We love it, its great.

b. TOWNLINE PARK

Facility	Times used in past 12 months?			Excellent					Poor				
	1-5	6-10	11+	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
Swimming Beach Avg. Rating: 2.4 Estimated Usage Rating: 62	1-5 33	6-10 3	11+ 1	5	16	9	2	2					
Restrooms/Changing Rooms Avg. Rating: 2.6 Estimated Usage Rating: 37	1-5 15	6-10 0	11+ 2	3	6	2	2	2					
Picnic Tables Avg. Rating: 2.0 Estimated Usage Rating: 29	1-5 12	6-10 1	11+ 1	4	4	4	0	0					
Grills Avg. Rating: 2.6 Estimated Usage Rating: 4	1-5 4	6-10 0	11+ 0	2	0	2	0	1					
Shelters Avg. Rating: 1.8 Estimated Usage Rating: 14	1-5 3	6-10 0	11+ 1	4	0	0	0	1					
Boat Landing Avg. Rating: 2.5 Estimated Usage Rating: 27	1-5 10	6-10 1	11+ 1	3	4	4	1	1					
Play Equipment Avg. Rating: 3.0 Estimated Usage Rating: 1	1-5 1	6-10 0	11+ 0	1	0	0	0	1					
Parking Area Avg. Rating: 2.1 Estimated Usage Rating: 73	1-5 34	6-10 1	11+ 3	9	14	8	2	0					
Other: _____ Avg. Rating: 0.0 Estimated Usage Rating: 2	1-5 2	6-10 0	11+ 0	0	0	0	0	0					
OVERALL SATISFACTION Avg. Rating: 2.3				5	6	6	1	1					

Comment: According to respondents, the most used facilities at Townline Park are the Parking Lot and the Swimming Beach. The Shelters and Picnic tables had the highest degree of user satisfaction. Overall, this location is not as preferred as Almon Park.

General Comments About Townline Park:

A little weedy

Algae Blooms; Park has reportation of being a romping place for homosexuals. Do not feel safe there.
Don't know where this is.

Don't use

Don't use

Fine. Grass is too short on entrance in July and August and "burns out."

Good

Great

Have used in the past and were pleased.

Haven't used this park but I know many who use the park especially for swimming.

I enjoy going there to get away. I enjoy sitting down by the lake but sitting options are limited.
 I have not taken my children there but know a lot of people who take their kids there because of the safety of the area.
 Need to make better use of this park.
 Never used this facility.
 Nice place for a quick dip.
 Nice place to cool off for kids
 Nice uncrowded beach to take children to.
 Safety issues, wash out to lake
 Should expand part to include County/City land across Hwy K. Should utilize Hanson Lake property to make a larger recreation area.
 Swimming "hole" but still an asset.
 Swimming area becoming too weedy.
 Swimming area becoming very weedy. Formerly I enjoyed swimming across the lake and late evening swims but weeds make it prohibitive.
 This is another popular and much needed facility--an asset to our greater Oneida Co. community.
 Use swimming area to access lake for skiing in early season.
 Very nice facility. Have used in past years.
 Very nicely maintained. Nice place for walks.
 Very poor boat landing, needs repair, and has been in need of repair for several years, grade for those in charge--poor.
 Very poor water due to weeds in the lake.
 Weedy beach--is the lake being polluted? Use to be very clear and clean!
 Why close in winter? Would make a nice ski loop. Ice fishing could use outhouse.

c. PERCH LAKE PARK

Facility	Times used in past 12 months?			Excellent					Poor
				1	2	3	4	5	
Boat Landing Avg. Rating: 2.1 Estimated Usage Rating: 40	1-5 16	6-10 4	11+ 0	7	4	8	0	0	
Restrooms Avg. Rating: 2.8 Estimated Usage Rating: 20	1-5 14	6-10 1	11+ 0	3	2	8	1	2	
Picnic Tables Avg. Rating: 2.0 Estimated Usage Rating: 42	1-5 24	6-10 3	11+ 0	9	9	5	1	1	
Grills Avg. Rating: 1.9 Estimated Usage Rating: 13	1-5 7	6-10 1	11+ 0	3	2	2	0	0	
Parking Area Avg. Rating: 2.0 Estimated Usage Rating: 47	1-5 23	6-10 4	11+ 0	9	8	7	0	1	
Other: _____ Avg. Rating: 1.4 Estimated Usage Rating: 8	1-5 2	6-10 1	11+ 0	4	0	1	0	0	
OVERALL SATISFACTION Avg. Rating: 1.9				7	6	4	1	0	

Comment: According to respondents, the most used facilities at Perch Lake Park are the Parking Lot, the Boat Landing, and the Picnic Tables. The Grills and other uses had the highest degree of user satisfaction. Overall, this location is not as preferred as Almon Park, but more preferred than Townline Park.

General Comments on Perch Lake Park

Awesome picnic area

Don't use (x2)

Fine

Good panfish

Great little park. Amenities match its size or rustic ness.

Have used previously. Nice little park and not crowded.

Haven't stopped there in awhile but know people who are very fond of this location.

I have utilized this facility in the past, but not last year. It is a nice facility.

I just started fishing last year. I'm looking forward to coming here to fish this year.

Might make a good location for a ski touring center/chalet though closer to Hwy K might be better.

Never used (x2)

Nice area. County should strive to purchase undeveloped land on the lake. Additional development will ruin it.

Nice atmosphere for family picnic

Nice facility

Nice place to take the kids for a quiet quick picnic.

Nice quiet Lake and Park. Need to improve toilet facilities and clean beach water line. Worm containers, soda/beer cans and other junk is in the water.

Ok

Please keep rustic

Potential for excellent facility but seems to receive very little use.

The accessible fishing is good for handicap people. A fishing pier would be nice.

Very nice beautiful lake, good landing

Very nice, quiet park and fishing area, do not add an ATV parking area to this location!

Visited during winter and walked out on the lake, waiting to visit in the spring with the canoe. Looks like a nice place to recreate.

d. WILLOW RAPIDS PICNIC AREA

Facility	Times used in past 12 months?			Excellent					Poor
Picnic Area Avg. Rating: 2.1 Estimated Usage Rating: 35	1-5 7	6-10 1	11+ 2	1 3	2 2	3 2	4 1	5 0	
Parking Area Avg. Rating: 2.2 Estimated Usage Rating: 47	1-5 7	6-10 3	11+ 2	1 3	2 2	3 5	4 0	5 0	
Other: _____ Avg. Rating: 4.0 Estimated Usage Rating: 2	1-5 2	6-10 0	11+ 0	1 0	2 0	3 1	4 0	5 1	
OVERALL SATISFACTION Avg. Rating: 3.3				1 0	2 1	3 2	4 0	5 1	

Comment: The Willow Rapids Picnic Area appears to be heavily used by a small number of residents. Responses indicate that the park is a good place to have a picnic, but is not well suited for some other uses. Overall satisfaction is average.

General Comments on Willow Rapids Picnic Area

Don't know where this is (x2)

Don't use (x2)

Good

Good Area

Haven't used it in past three years, however it is ok.

need more open

Need toilets

Needs restrooms

Never been there. (x2)

Never used this facility.

Nice

Nice scenic stop but hard for some to locate.

Ok

Rest room burned down a number of years ago and was never replaced. It would be nice to have some picnic tables also.

We used side roads and trails for sight seeing and 4 wheeling with our Bronco.

Went here to canoe a few years ago. To bad it is so far away. Pretty!

e. BASS LAKE PARK

Facility	Times used in past 12 months?			Excellent					Poor				
	1-5	6-10	11+	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
Boat Landing Avg. Rating: 2.2 Estimated Usage Rating: 46	2	0	4	2	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Restrooms Avg. Rating: 1.0 Estimated Usage Rating: 2	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Picnic Tables Avg. Rating: 1.0 Estimated Usage Rating: 2	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grills Avg. Rating: 1.0 Estimated Usage Rating: 2	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Parking Area Avg. Rating: 2.0 Estimated Usage Rating: 35	2	0	3	3	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other: _____ Avg. Rating: 0.0 Estimated Usage Rating: 3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
OVERALL SATISFACTION Avg. Rating: 2.0				0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Comment: Bass Lake Park appears to be primarily used as a boat landing by respondents. The landing and the parking lot were the most popular facilities of this park.

General Comments on Bass Lake Park

Don't know where this is either.

Don't use

Good

I drove in the parking lot during deer season but didn't use the area. Looks good for a future visit.

Needs development work.

Never used this facility. (x3)

Rather remote, but sometimes folks that. We think primitive camping opportunities would fill a niche.

Where is it? Oneida Co.?

f. LINEAR PARKS (TRAILS)

Trail	Times used in past 12 months?			Excellent					Poor
	1-5	6-10	11+	1	2	3	4	5	
2-Way Ski Trail, Cassian Avg. Rating: 2.0 Estimated Usage Rating: 217	31	9	12	13	21	8	2	1	
Ski Trail, Washburn Avg. Rating: 1.4 Estimated Usage Rating: 412	24	17	26	42	16	1	0	1	
Ski Trail, Woodboro Avg. Rating: 2.1 Estimated Usage Rating: 98	28	8	2	8	15	10	0	0	
Ski Trail, Hwy G, Enterprise Avg. Rating: 2.1 Estimated Usage Rating: 76	23	7	1	7	15	4	3	0	
Mnt. Bike Trail, Washburn Lake Avg. Rating: 1.3 Estimated Usage Rating: 225	17	9	14	24	10	1	0	0	
ATV Trails, Little Rice Lake Avg. Rating: 2.2 Estimated Usage Rating: 51	6	2	3	5	1	4	0	1	
Snowmobile Trails, County-wide Avg. Rating: 2.2 Estimated Usage Rating: 193	8	7	13	6	12	6	2	0	
Hiking Trails, County-wide Avg. Rating: 1.8 Estimated Usage Rating: 404	31	20	23	26	21	9	3	0	
Snowshoe Trails, Almon Park Avg. Rating: 1.5 Estimated Usage Rating: 49	14	4	1	11	4	2	0	0	
Nature Trails, Almon Park Avg. Rating: 1.4 Estimated Usage Rating: 117	30	9	3	23	9	3	0	0	
OVERALL SATISFACTION Avg. Rating: 1.8				15	14	6	1	0	

Comment: The Washburn Ski Trail and the County Wide Hiking trails are the most used trails in the county. The Washburn Mountain Bike Trail and the Cassian Two-Way Ski Trail also had strong user showings. The Washburn Ski Trail and the Almon Park Nature Trails had the highest user satisfaction ratings for heavily used trails, while the Almon Park Snow Shoe Trails and the Washburn Lake Mountain Bike Trail were very popular among fewer users. Overall, Oneida County's trail systems received a good to excellent rating.

General Comments on County Trails

A pretty good diversity of trails for the skiers with different abilities. I prefer hills.
At Washburn, please groom the south side of the road for classic and skate. It's wide enough as is and the 2-way sections would be safer than the two-way tracks. The Lakewood trail system is two way skate and classic with more traffic and not much wider. If not both resume skate only. My opinion only, but am a coach with the high school and have much ski experience many places.
ATV trails/a user's fee should be put in effect for bike trails, etc. Grants are not free money!
Better publicity and availability of maps and directions to trails.
Can they be mowed earlier in the growing season?
Challenging, entertaining
Could use more grooming
County crew does a great job of maintaining ski trails as well as hiking trails.
County ok, Sugar Camp area best grooming
County should promote additional bike paths and better hiking trails.
Desperately need more ATV trails
Enjoy walks on logging roads. Quiet!
Enterprise Trail not groomed often enough. 2 bad snow years.
Excellent
Excellent grooming on cross country trails. Have had snowmobiles and ATV's on Cassian trail this year!
Washburn ski & cc trails are some of the best in northern Wisconsin.
Excellent job maintaining linear parks!
Get ramp or something behind Holiday Inn by railroad tracks. Rough on sleds. I've gotten stuck a few times from the carbides grabbing the track.
Good if we have snow!
Good work on trail maintenance, just needed snow these past few years or our attendance would be higher.
Great (x2)
Great lack of family biking trails--need more biking trails like the Newbold Trail.
Great location. Even after several snowfalls it was a pleasant surprise to have the trails groomed.
Great trails
Have been unable to use in recent past due to poor conditions but utilized Washburn trails in the past.
Have skied Washburn in past. Nice but more difficult than I care for. Totally opposed to further ATV Expansion!! Remediation already needed on current Lt. Rice trail.
Haven't used lately, however, there is a need for a snowshoe trail adjacent to the Cassian ski trail. The thought for average family use must be considered for any trail. Washburn ski trail is a good example, not suited for majority of families.
Hiking--should be mowed twice a year--keeps down deer ticks. Skiing--groom one a snowfall and/or on Thu./Fri. before.
I love the peace/solitude and often take long walks. Like the wildlife and tranquility offered on the many trails.
I truly enjoy Washburn for skiing. Thank you!

I use them mostly for their peace and quiet, closeness to nature and physical health as well as safe place to take my children.

Keep bikes off Almon nature trail

Keep others off trails. A portable toilet would be nice.

Keep the ATV's off, had two dogs run over in past years.

Keep the ski trails groomed, please

McNaughton XC ski trails used most often.

My favorite is Cassian. Thanks for the good ski trail.

Need a trail south on CTH "G" past Nic. College

Need more hiking, biking, walking trails.

Nice scenic trails

Nose Lake lots of use, good condition, logging on west side of road has negatively effected skiing, snowmobiles at Cassian, not good for skiing.

Oneida County cross country ski trails are fantastically well-groomed and a pleasure to have so close to home for all who live here and use them.

Only ATV trails

Overall snowmobile trails have been good but just a lack of snow the last few years. Northwoods passage could do a better job.

Really enjoy diagonal skiing on W/S of Washburn.

See attached sheet.

Silent sport trails are very important to me.

Ski trail grooming has been excellent!

Ski trails are excellent--Great Job!

Ski trails are for most part groomed well. I really like hunter trail system. Keep out ATVs!!!

Snow came late but nice now.

Thanks for grooming

Thanks for the berms/gates that keep motorized users off of trails in spring, summer and fall.

The trails are excellent, how about more biking trails!!

These are beautiful trails, but after a big storm it's a while before they are passable on a bike.

They are the difference between good life in the northwoods as a poor one. Very important to my health, peace of mind, and happiness. Please keep them quiet.

Use hiking hunter trails for Grouse hunting.

Very diverse in terrain, flora, etc.

Very good grooming on C trails in Oneida Co.

Very nice. A true feeling of the outdoors and nature.

Very nice. Well groomed ski trails. A restroom facility at parking lot would be nice.

Washburn is beautiful and could be expanded. Skating and diagonal skiing should be allowed on both sides of the lake road. This hurts skier participation from outside the Rhinelander area. Otherwise it's great!

Washburn ski trails are wonderful but we'd like to see skate skiing available on both sides of the road.

Washburn trail is one of the best in state. Please keep it up! How about Mt. Biking on west side of road?

Washburn Trails should be extended--this could be one of the best in northern Wisconsin.

We love the Washburn trail so much, we seldom go elsewhere, fully meets our needs.

We need more Mtn. Bike trails.

We put on average 1200 miles on snowmobile a year--love it.

We should be proud of the trails we have. Retailers, motels and restaurants should participate in these programs.

When enough snow, great. Would sure love to Jeep trail ride some of these in summer.

4. What is your age group? N = 180

Under 20 years	20 - 44 years	45 - 64 years	65 years or older
2 (1%)	70 (39%)	89 (50%)	18 (10%)

Comment: Compared to the previous survey, this shows a much better spread of age groups. The 1999 to 2003 survey had 73% of its respondents in the 45-64 category.

5. Does anyone in your family have a physical condition that requires special recreation features? N = 183

Yes	No	Not Sure
8 (4%)	172 (94%)	3 (2%)

6. Do you feel that there should be new outdoor recreational facilities or programs developed by the Oneida County Forestry & Park Department? N = 179

Yes	No	Not Sure
114 (64%)	29 (16%)	36 (20%)

7. Would you be willing to pay for new outdoor recreational facilities or programs through one of the following?

User fees	Increased tax levy	Donations	None of the above
113	20	39	18

General Comments
1. A warming hut of Washburn trailhead. 2. Skating and classic on south side of road at Washburn. 3. No Piston bully--money better spent on trail improvements (see 1). 4. If ATV's are allowed in co. forest they will be on Washburn, Nose Lake, Cassian Enterprise ski trails.
1. Another beach facility would be a nice addition, Buck Lake is usually crowded and Townline Lakes water quality is not very nice later in the summer. 2. No new ATV trails, limit ATVs to Little Rice Lake only. 3. No new snowmobile trails. 4. ATVs and snowmobiles are loud and disruptive.
1. Keep ATV's out. 2. Snowshoe trails
A user fee should be charged for the cross-country trails. Something like an annual fee of \$10.00 or day use of \$2.00. The volunteer boxes probably don't get enough collection. Develop specific ATV trails! Do not allow use on county land or the many logging roads.
Additional biking trails. Walking trails.
Additional mnt. Bike trails, i.e. Cassian Lake with Washburn
All the old walking and hunting trails in Woodboro and Enterprise should be brushed and mowed before they disappear. Most are impassable at this time, a volunteer day could be sponsored and let ATV and chainsaw be used that day or weekend to benefit all people using the trails.
Any assistance in opening or keeping open 4X4 trails or sites is greatly appreciated and needed.
Any camping accommodations provided by the county should lean toward primitive. Let the private sector provide more highly developed facilities that include electricity and RV parking.
As listed earlier need a snowmobile south on CTH "G" to hook up with Bus. 8 trail.

ATV trails
ATV trails get money back for the county from state (DNR) from registration fees. Why not! What does the county get back from bicycles!
ATV trails would be a GREAT addition to Oneida County, not just for me, but certain businesses and almost everyone I know.
Bike trails--more needed to be competitive to other areas, i.e. (Boulder Jct., Three Lakes, Saynor.) I'm against developing more ATV trails in Oneida County. Its become harder to find areas for silent sport activities and environmental impact is too great. I witnessed an ATV rider circling an Osprey nest and platform during low water time on Willow.
Camping sites increased. Improved snow-mo trails. Bow range
Connect Washburn mt. Bike trail to Cassian trail to McNaughton Trail. Keep wind buffer in place during tree harvest along ski trails. Develop bike routes along existing county roads.
Could you work with people from the Rhinelander Whitewater trail? You can contact Scott Watson 282-6025.
Develop comprehensive network of bicycle trails.
Development of ATV Trails/loading ramps, parking area, signs--in future toilets/shelter.
Do not want an ATV trail in the Cassian/Woodboro block. There is no need for a new parking lot, trails connecting Washburn and Cassian trails to Perch Lake, nor lights for parking lots. We don't need more mercury lights--they are annoying and fishermen, skiers, bikers, etc. don't need lights in the parking lots. Waste of money. Why are we spending so much money in support of ATV's? Grant money is still taxpayer money. We have enough miles of trails.
Expand bike trails in Oneida County. The DNR either can't or won't improve the general fishing in Wisconsin. Biking can replace fishing as a huge tourist draw. Example, at peak periods the paved Boulder Jct. Trail recorded over 200 bikes per hour according to DNR traffic counters!
Expand the county forests by obtaining lands from the paper companies/land holding companies.
Expand Washburn system skiing to connect to Cassian-Woodboro S-Way (and/or Nose Lake Trail.) Trail head on Beaver Lake Road and North end of 2-way trail (I'll volunteer help to the trail clearing). Ruth Jaeger 277-2493. Explore connecting Cassian 2-way to McNaughton Ski trail. Chalet near Hwy K with trails to Cassian and Washburn. No more ATV trails please! They effectively close trails to other uses even if not intending to.
I am not an ATVer, but support the need for trails for them. They have the right just as much as snowmobilers.
I am very happy to see the Rhinelander area get some ATV trails. I participate in motorized and silent sports and hope that people realize that there is room for everyone. I lived in Green Bay for a while and hated the fact that there is very little opportunity for outdoor recreation. All the land is farmed! Thanks for everything your dept. does.
I appreciate the fact that Oneida County lands are diverse for example, I like the more frequently cut popple areas for grouse hunting and the older pine/hemlock forests for walking and snowshoeing. I am concerned that the Woodboro spring ponds are silting in. With dredging the ponds might provide excellent trout fishing--maybe the county could work with Trout Unlimited or the DNR.
I believe Oneida County should focus its efforts to developing a county wide trail system of biking/hiking trails. Part of the effort should include support from the Dept. of Tourism in the form of publicity through photo-ops/news releases/commendations for leadership in the area of county development (to achieve this, the whole County Board may need to be replaced.) The area needs to become the destination in WI for biking, for economic dollars.
I believe that the expansion of the ATV trail system in Oneida and surrounding counties would have a positive economic impact on the area. It is my thought that the trail system could be funded by the current revenue from registration and through donations.
I believe that we need to make more and better use of our existing facilities, many of which I am totally unfamiliar. People tend to say they want more, when they don't even know what we have. We need to get people to be aware of and using what's here, and for me, that does not mean letting all the ATV's and snowmobilers take over. Perhaps encouraging school outings, local recreation groups, clubs, to use our

parks and trails.
I do feel strongly, since I participate in many silent sports and only silent sports that there should remain a percentage of the areas that are QUIET. Please keep snowmobiles and ATV's far enough away to allow us silent sports enthusiasts to be able to enjoy nature too.
I do not support ATV trails in the county.
I enjoy the serenity of the county forests. Allowing the use of ATV's in these areas would significantly detract from the northwoods. Please do not allow ATV's in the county forests.
I feel it is extremely important to keep as many areas/regions as natural as possible. Our land, nation and world wide soon will be all developed. Our cities/industries continue to encroach on the pristine woodland, wetlands and natural habitats. To "go up north" means to get away from the cities to escape to the natural beauty of the northwoods. Lets keep the northwoods undeveloped.
I feel Oneida County is missing out on a big opportunity not having a useable ATV trail system. The opportunity for family fun and local revenue is truly missed.
I heard about plans for a Perch Lake Warming shelter for cross-country skiing. I'd support that with donations/user fee. Please keep any new snowmobile/ATV trail far away from ski trails.
I like it best when accesses aren't maintained too well because then they're not over used and deters the less avid. I like logging roads and places where less people go.
I see a lot of abuse to our trails from ATV use. Please limit their use in our forest.
I specified user fees because over the last five years that I used the ski and bike trails, I find it to be vastly under used. Maybe there are a few exceptions when the use seems busy. We don't need any new trails or parks, camping areas either. Remember that federal and state grants are the taxpayers money also. Taxes are way too high in Wisconsin and Oneida Co. also.
I think we need to invest in securing the lands and parks we have and ensure that they will be here indefinitely especially as land development continues and the area population grows. The peace and naturalism of the "northwoods" is what makes us the "northwoods." It's what attracts people to this area and I feel it's very important to maintain this naturalism as aggressively as possible, even purchasing plots of forested lands to prevent over development, if any new developments are to be considered.
I use mostly private areas.
I would be very willing to pay for a season or annual pass to use the trails. I'm surprised that a user fee doesn't already exist because there are non-Oneida Co. residents using the trails. Having to pay for a yearly/seasonal pass would not stop me from using the trails. I would also be willing to volunteer to help maintain the trails and I'm sure other residents would too.
I would like to see 4-Wheel Drive/off highway vehicles included in the new Five-year plan. We regularly use Oneida County forest trails for this purpose, but the trails that would provide the best experience tend to be bermed. I feel that opening more multiple-use trails will attract tourism dollars, also.
I would like to see all the trails left open for multiple use so that we can use them for 4-Wheel drive use. I am from the Madison area and use your land to recreate. When we come to your area we use hotels, restaurants and gas stations. I also belong to Wis. 4-Wheel Drive Assoc., Midwest 4-Wheel Drive Assoc., Tread Lightly, Blue Ribbon Coalition and United 4-Wheel Drive Assoc.
I would like to see areas open to 4WD truck trail use/multi-use. Your area of the state is beautiful and I would love the opportunity to enjoy it more. I am from Janesville, WI (South Central) (and belong to 4L4W, WI4Y6A, MW4WDA, United 4WDASSC. And other groups that promote responsible use. I would be interested in staying (camp/motel, eating) in your area.
I would like to see fewer bermed trails in non-sensitive areas. In the last year I have spent over \$1,000.00 in local economies while camping and trail riding. I have been active in the March of Dimes Off Road Rally where a lot of money was spent locally.
I would like to see more 4 wheeling trails. I go around the state for different events and always like to go to new places and see new things. Thanks for your time.
I would like to see more active grouse management areas throughout the county--via mowed cover roads. I would also like to see non-walking only roads opened up (berms removed) so vehicular traffic can keep weeds and tall grass down and thus allowing for better deer and grouse habitat. I do not agree with the County Foresters decision to berm up side roads and disallow usage by all!

I would like to see some trails opened for 4 wheel drive trucks and Jeeps. Multiple use trails work great. I belong to 4 Lakes 4 Wheelers, WI. Four Wheel Drive Association, Mid West 4 wheel Drive Assoc. Tread lightly. Blue Ribbon Coalition and United 4 Wheel Drive Assoc. When we go wheeling we buy food, gas, camping or a motel room.
I would like to see Washburn Lake ski trail switched to skating only on west side. I would also like to see this trail system expanded. I think the county does a good job maintaining this trail system!
I would support continued development of hiking, biking, x-c ski trails, but not motorized trails. There is enough. Connecting bike trails good.
In light of a growing overweight population we need to promote our great park system.
Increase room taxes, more ski trails maintained and groomed, bike trails.
It is a big disappointment that the new bath house at Buck Lake has been spray painted. An outdoor ice skating rink with warming rooms would be wonderful. Could Buck Lake be kept plowed or Boon Lake?
It would be nice to have more mt. Bike trails. Thanks for all your hard work. The trails are great!
John. I appreciate being on your mailing list but my wife and I being in our late 60's living on a lake, have no need to go to a county park, so our input should not be considered. Thank you.
Keep ATV's off of snowmobile trails.
Keep ATVs out of the county forest. All they do is rut up everything and litter. I am against any expansion of ATV trails. They can go elsewhere. Otherwise keep up the good work with the small staff.
Keep existing hiking and XC trails. Keep wild character of Oneida County Forest. Limit ATV use to existing trails.
Keep out ATV's. We own an ATV, but do not want them in the county forest. Too much destruction and then the taxpayers have to pay to keep up trails. It is not worth the loss of the environment. ATV used from outside the county do not have respect for the county as it is not "theirs." Many feel that since they are "up North" there are no laws/rules.
Leave as many areas open to OHV (Jeeps, Truck, etc.) as possible. These can be multiple use and should be kept open to all users whenever possible. We live in the Madison area and we enjoy coming up to Oneida Co. to ride your trails/roads. We belong to 4 Lakes 4 Wheelers Club, Wis. 4 Wheel Drive Assoc., Midwest 4 Wheel Drive Assoc., United 4 Wheel Drive Assoc., Tread Lightly, Blue Ribbon Coalitute and Like states Res. All.
License all trailers (ie. Snowmobile/ATV/Boat and use to fund facilities. We hate having user fees on our sleds as in MI, but have paid for camping sites and user fees for daily use trails.
Make Washburn ski trail on the west side back to skating.
Many county and states are making area for off road vehicles whether public or private run while much time and effort is put into these tourism and revenue are increased. Wisconsin should have an ORV park whether public or private fun.
More ATV trails (use sled trails)
More ATV trails needed.
More ATV trails out away form civilization.
More ATV trails with waysides
More biking trails for road bikes; bike lane along County C. A boardwalk over the swamp in the Cassian XC ski trail would make it available for hiking and biking.
More out-of-state snowmobile stickers-Illinois, etc. Less out of area-Wisconsin resident stickers-Wisconsin free stickers to Oneida County taxpayers. Mandatory Map Fee. Incentive program based on donations to win. (Contact Personal Touch Marketing 262-746-9110). Russ Groth
More ski trails. Keep uses that cause erosion off ski trails.
Need another ATV trail close to Rhinelander.
Need more ATV trails to help Oneida County's economy. Tourism is important, so let's work together to get to that goal.
Need more bike trails
No ATV's

No, but reallocation from RHLDR and Nicolet school taxes!!
Non-motorized activities are clearly most compatible with good forest management. There are many sound reasons motorized vehicles detract from the quality of our natural resources and from the quality of use by the rest of the public.
Oneida County has more than enough forest land--develop more ATV trails and use what we have. Do not buy more land! Department has adequate staff to do this, get them to work.
Oneida/Vilas Co. should actively promote bike trails/access connections between all of its communities. Have a daily and seasonal pass to help pay for new trails along with donations. We have good examples within this area to follow: Bearskin, Manitowish Waters Trail, Boulder Junction Trail. Lets make this a family biking area like the Router that interconnects by Elroy/Sparta/LaCrosse and beyond.
Owning three ATV's and being a business owner, I feel we need ATV trails to compensate for all the years I have been paying registration fees. We should be compensated for our fees, just like the snowmobiles, and have trails to ride on to enjoy the beauty of our forests.
People riding bicycles on bike trails should have to buy usage permits. I have to buy for all my Rec equipment. They should not be exempt!!
Please concentrate on trail development where reimbursement funds are available from user fees or registrations, i.e. snowmobile and ATV. Oneida Co. has good rec facilities now for the most part.
Please keep up the snowmobile trails, I really enjoy them. I would like to see ATV trails and possibly the use of ATVs on gravel (only) roads in the county forest.
Please make some ATV trails. Need more county forest camping areas.
Please make some ATV Trails. Need more forest camping areas.
Please!! Do not Allow ATV use in our county forest.
Quality parks and trails are important for quality of life and for the tourist economy.
Recreational facilities that provide opportunities for people to engage in healthy physical activity are a benefit to the community and visitors. The benefits are both health and economy related. Oneida County Biking and Walking Trails Council is working toward the development of trails that will connect communities and recreational facilities with safe, clean, quiet, nature-based trails.
Reopen Washburn ski trails (both sides of road to skating). Oneida County has many diagonal ski routes, only Washburn is wide and developed enough to comfortably allow skating on both sides of the road. Many skaters have stopped going there due to limited skating distance. Its a shame since it can easily accommodate both. Camping in the county forest would be a huge plus.
See Attached Sheet.
See Attached.
See comments under F. There is a need for bike trails in Oneida County. The county should, at a minimum make any taxpayer dollars spent for ATV trails, for bike trails throughout the county. Maybe if bikers spent more time in taverns, the county board might recognize them and the need for trails.
Support, develop and maintain quiet (non-motorized) recreations/opportunities. Keep ATV's off hiking trails and woods roads.
the businesses need ATV trails, these people spend money in the area. I believe we have more than enough free rec. Its time all sports support themselves.
The county xc ski trails, especially, are real gems that are rapidly gaining a region-wide reputation. The grooming is excellent; overall, but more is needed at the Nose Lake (Woodboro) trail system.
The development of the Riverwalk in Rhinelander would be a great asset! Also, I've heard the RHS grounds XC ski trail is being developed-a plus! I'm a member of NPTS and would like to see the whitewater park continue to develop.
The new boardwalk at Buck Lake is wonderful! Such a great area to see bog plants!
The total tax rate is already too large for the few services I am able to take advantage of. Any new facilities need to be supported without any increase in the tax levy.
The Washburn Ski and Bike Trail is the best of all spots to go! Excellent Job. Thanks
There are three large blocks of Oneida County Forest land. Two of these block have ATV trails. There is absolutely NO need for ATV trails to be put in the Woodboro, Cassian block. Why can't one block be

maintained for quiet sports like hunting, hiking, etc. Don't try to do everything everywhere--it don't work!
There is a serious need for legal off road trail driving allocated to street legal vehicles, including Jeeps and trucks. The ideal scenario would be unimproved trails with "travel at your own risk" signage. The more impossible the trail the Better!
There is no canoe landing on this side of the river in town for public use. Please open the area to the public for a bike rest and river access.
To use a ATV vehicle we pay for, license for, we have to trailer and have about 15 miles of trails. How much do bike trails get of this money for all the bike trails, as tax payers of Oneida Co., State of Wisc. I feel biking trail users should help pay for these trails, and upkeep. Why do ATV's have to fight for every inch.
User fee if seasonal. Ski trails have been great standby to have for summer biking off road on trail but not really mt. Biking.
User fees are a wrong idea. Enforcement costs would probably out strip benefits. I am opposed to ATV trails, particularly those constructed without full public participation. ATV development is not the way to improve use of public county lands.
User fees would be good--\$15.00/person/year just like state fees. Should stay available to trail maintenance and not go back to general pot!
Utilize time, money and resources more efficiently. Keep local money local--less administration and more work. Why are fee, tax increases and donations always the solution.
We (silent sports participants) must start helping to support the facilities we use.
We already pay to have our ATV's licensed and have done so for over 20 years, yet we have no "legal" trails to ride. We purchased 40 acres in Iron County, WI. Now we can take our machines and ride in the county and spend our money in their restaurants, hotels, etc. Its nice to see snowmobiles and ATV's riding together!
We are in need of dogs and snowshoe friendly winter hiking trails. I would volunteer to help post and/or make these areas.
We have so much beautiful forest land up here, lets make use of it, we need area residents to get more active outdoors, and with good facilities tourism will also use the area state forests in Vilas County.
We need ATV trail system that connects Lincoln Co. to Vilas, Iron Co.
We need ATV Trailers. We have enough bike trails.
We need more countywide hiking and biking trails. There is presently no safe place to take a family biking except for the Bearskin Trail and part of the Newbold Trail.
We support silent, non motor sports and believe that the county should support these as well. We believe the golf course area should be developed for year round use and night skiing.
What is the intent of this survey" The way it is distributed allows for special interest to give the forestry committee a view different than the public you serve.
With increased population and tax values it seems your dept. budget should increase accordingly. Multiply results of this survey X 2 to include my spouse/recreation companion. For some recreation development we'd like to see a municipal approach with townships, cities, county, organizations sharing costs, resources, and ideas (e.g.. the airport, Hansen Lk. area facilities, and bike/hike trails.) We like linked facilities. All new developments should be compatible with sustainable resource use and minimal user-conflict. We think there is a need for scenic (roadside) stops, a wayside or two with facilities, and points of interest interpretive locations with appropriate signage throughout the county.
With only 1,500 miles of ATV trails in the state, that puts 128 ATV's on every trail mile compared to 22,000 miles of Snowmobile trails/a million opportunities for the Hikers and bikers. Please let the ATV trails catch up so we can stop the rising death toll. We also have a need to connect with other trails to provide connected trails to relieve pressure on local areas.
With state waysides closing, it would be good to see county pit potties remain open year round for ice fishing, snowshoe, fall walks, etc.
With the beauty your county has to offer in it's forests and fields, there is great opportunity to expand the recreational vehicle user groups such as off highway vehicles or "Jeeps". The trail potential is there, the usership is there and therefore the tourism revenue is there. An off highway recreation area or trail

system would double or triple the tourism dollars coming into your area.
With the rising epidemic of obesity and CVP, I see a community need to establish more walking/biking/hiking trails. More availability of these trails will encourage more use by O. County residents as well as our visitors.
Work on trail connections between parks and other natural features to increase the number of miles of hiking, biking, skiing and snowshoe trails.
Would like development of bicycle trails in and around the city of Rhinelander.
Would like more trails that allow dogs.
Would like to see more trails available for Jeep type trail riding in the summer.
Your doing a great job! I enjoy living in Oneida Co. because of the outdoor recreational opportunities that the county provides. If motorized vehicles need to be on county lands, all future trail development should keep a large buffer between the quiet sports activities and those that make obnoxious noise. I would like to see another ski trail in Enterprise Unit where you could take your dog along for a ski.

Additional General Comments
Another place to swim would be nice.
ATV Trail System
ATV Trails (x4)
For silent sports.
I do think it is important to keep up the facilities we have.
I like bike trails like the one between Tomahawk and Minocqua would be nice to have one from RH to Minocqua and Minocqua to Tomahawk.
Ice skating. How about on Boom Lake?
Keep up the existing trails!
Lots of trails. Snowshoeing, mountain biking.
Need explanation of location
No ATV trails!
Oneida Co. should sponsor the development and expenses of bike trails up Hwy 47 and along Hwy "K" to connect Tomahawk, RHN and Minocqua/Woodruff areas. Make Oneida/Vilas a bike Rec destination.
Only if it's no burden to the taxpayer (self funded)
Rhineland: River Trail/Also Whitewater Run or walk
Road bike routes, both signed and incorporated into long term maintenance plans. Cty Hwy K needs a 3' wide strip.
To accommodate unprecedented growth in Oneida Co., and diversifying demographics/interests.
With budget as it is there's enough to maintain current facilities. Please do not develop more motorized trails esp. ATV's.
Your survey should also ask how Oneida County facilities compare to Nine Mile in Marathon County, ABR in Ironwood, After Glow in Phelps or Winter Park in Minocqua/Vilas County. Thank you for the opportunity to give feedback.
(Extended Letter Excerpt): "I urge you to respect the wishes of the "silent" (figuratively and literally) majority of Oneida County residents and not allow expansion of ATV trails on the county forests."
(Extended Letter Excerpt): ". . .perfect set-up would be to complete the (ATV) trail system all the way around the Willow Flowage. . . I am handicapped and this is our only way in the woods"
(Extended Letter Excerpt):". . .a fee system . . . based on the honor system." "At each trail starting point you would have preprinted envelopes that the user would fill out with the proper amount enclosed in the envelope, they could then be sent into the Forestry Dept. and then the trail pass would be mailed to the user and that person would need to have that pass on them when using the trails.
(Extended Letter Excerpt): "Washburn ski trail . . .could be extended . . . to take advantage of some more of the hills that are present."

(Extended Letter Excerpt): "I . . . suggest that another option be considered (besides a 2007 heated shelter) and that is a three sided shelter with a roof and benches . . . more frequent grooming rather than spending the money on heated shelter."
(Extended Letter Excerpt): "We suggest stewardship of our . . . natural resource base . . . (with) recreational facilities that have the least impact and strain . . ." Also "avoid supporting recreation activities that have a known history for causing environmental harm, resource degradation, and high maintenance or restoration costs."
(Extended Letter Excerpt): "The plan should show sensitivity to noise problems in summer that may be far different than in winter."
(Extended Letter Excerpt): "let's build up our tourist attraction assets with clean air and "pristine" forest conditions, as opposed to more machines."